ISSN 0229-0103

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

31 OCT

$1.50

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PUBLIC DOMAIN
MUSIC & SOUND EFFECTS
GarageBand, Apple Inc.

ISBN : 0-919359-07-8

Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

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in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

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A Note from the Publisher

Albany's FantaCon. What can I say? The money wasn't terrific -- but it was probably the best con Dave and I ever attended. The reason can be summed up in four words -- Richard and Wendy Pini. I met Wendy and Richard about two years ago at Phil Seuling's Comic Art Con in New York City. But we never had much of a chance to really get to know each other. At the Philidelphia Con that year Dave flew down to join me, but somehow there were always people pulling on either Richard or Wendy's elbows or someone else pulling on ours. Two years passed, and then something special happened. While Dave was at the San Diego Con this year he finally had a bit of time to talk to Richard and Wendy. He came home glowing. These were our kind of people. I mean -- they were running into the same type of problems we were. I was skeptical -- but we agreed to go to the FantaCon in Albany as the Pinis would also be there. I had the time of my life. Richard is an amazing person, the pressures he deals with. And Wendy -- her ability to laugh despite the pain that so often accompanies trying to achieve so difficult a goal astounds me. We sat up, the four of us, and just talked on one night, just about all night. The energy in that room was incredible! Richard would catch my eye sometimes when Dave and Wendy went off on "an artists trip" about solving some problem -- and Richard and I would just laugh. I could say "you know, how this thing happens, and, like, you can't explain why?" and Richard and Wendy would collapse in laughter because they knew just what I was talking about. Talk about suddenly not feeling alone facing all this stuff!

Albany was the *very first* con I can remember Dave leaving looking absolutely happy. Oh yes -- a special thank you to Brent Alan Richardson and Robert Spina for coming up to Albany. It's really nice to meet people you've been writing to for a while but never met. I'll be the first to admit that talking to people is my favorite hobby! So if you see me at a con -- yes, you out there, don't be shy!

So much has happened, once again, between the last issue and this that I've probably left out half a dozen things I had meant to say.

Oh ya -- one last thing. If you are in New York City or are going to be visiting some time -- go see the Chrysler Building at night some time. Better yet -- get a hard-core New Yorker to show you it -- what a beautiful sight. Excuse my gushing, but although I wouldn't want to live anywhere but Kitchener, New York City is sure a heart stopper! See you next issue!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 31 OCTOBER, 1981

Publisher
Denise Loubert

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA
95945

Pacific Comics
P.O. Box 99217
San Diego, CA
92109

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL
62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, Wisconsin
53713

Styx Comic Service
Box 3791, Stn. B
Winnipeg, Man., Canada
R2W 3R6

Now & Then Books
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N2G 1W1

Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, California
90230
Membership...$5.00 per year

Advertising
Abraxas Studio
Richard Bruning
P.O. Box 1606
Madison, Wisconsin

CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in winter, spring and fall.

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Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print & Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.

CHASING COOTIE!

HOLLAND M. HADDEN IS **DEAD**, CRUSHED BENEATH A GIANT CRESCENT MOON OF STONE.

THE RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF PALNU IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN PLEASED...

A THING LIKE THAT CAN REALLY HURT YOUR CREDIT RATING...

HSSSS

GET BACK HERE, YOU IDIOT BUG!

GIVE IT UP, COOTIE, AND YOU MIGHT GET OFF WITH ONLY FORTY YEARS HARD LABOUR ...

EAT-MY-ROACH-ARANG, MONEY-LEECHING OPPRESSOR OF THE MASSES!!

THE DIVERSION ALLOWS THE MOON ROACH TO SLIP AWAY, UNDETECTED ...

HIS ROACH CAPE IS NOT QUITE SO FORTUNATE...

COOTIE?

WHEN I THINK OF HOW **POOR** SOME PEOPLE ARE ...

... I COULD JUST **PUKE** ...

HE SAYS THE MOST **EXTRAORDINARY** THINGS, DOESN'T HE?

YOU DON'T OFTEN FIND A MAN HIS SIZE WITH A CONSCIENCE ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES.

YOU HIS **KEEPER**, LADY?

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING ...

I AWOKE ONE NIGHT TO FIND HIM STANDING AT THE FOOT OF MY BED, HOLDING HIS SIDE. I WAS TERRIFIED-- HE LOOKED LIKE SOME SORT OF JET AND SILVER DARK NIGHT CAPED CRUSADER. HIS EYES SEEMED TO BURN LIKE TWIN FLAMES. HE SPOKE TO ME FOR THE FIRST TIME...

SORRY, LADY...

MY GUT SEEMS TO BE LEAKING ALL OVER YOUR CARPET ...

AND I FELL INSTANTLY... MADLY... IN LOVE.

HE COLLAPSED ACROSS THE BED. I GOT BANDAGES AND OINTMENT AND I DRESSED HIS WOUND...

YOU RICH BROADS SURE GOT SOFT HANDS

HE TURNED MY HEAD WITH FLATTERY AND THEN...

SUDDENLY, HE GRABBED ME...

HEY-- WHAT D'YUH THINK YER DOIN'?

I STRUGGLED IN HIS ARMS

HEY!

BUT HE WAS TOO STRONG.

HEYYYYMPH!

THE NEXT DAY...

...I TOLD HIM HE COULD STAY...

HE HAD RAVISHED ME, TRUE...

BUT I SENSED THERE WAS SOMETHING DECENT IN HIM...

I WANTED TO GIVE THAT DECENCY A **CHANCE** ...

I AWOKE THE NEXT NIGHT TO HEAR HIM CRYING OUT IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VOICE...

"KILL THEM, MOON ROACH! GIVE THEM ONE FOR ME!" IT WENT ON FOR A GOOD HOUR. VILE THREATS MINGLED WITH ACCUSATIONS OF "MONETARY GENOCIDE" -- DEMANDS FOR "REVENGE"

IT WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON LIVING INSIDE THE MOON ROACH ...

HE CALLED HIMSELF KEVITCH AND HE CLAIMED TO BE THE MOON ROACH'S BIGGEST FAN.

IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THIS WAS THE PERSONALITY THAT DROVE THE MOON ROACH TO ACTS OF PETTY VANDALISM...

IS THERE SOME REASON HE CAN'T DRESS HIMSELF?

I WAS JUST GETTING TO THAT...

I COULDN'T PERSUADE KEVITCH TO LET THE MOON ROACH RETIRE -- AND THE MOON ROACH HIMSELF WAS COMPLETELY BEYOND MY CONTROL...

...I DID THE ONLY THING I COULD.

I STARTED BUILDING ANOTHER PERSONALITY ...

ARTEMIS.

ARTEMIS STRONG.

IT WAS ARTEMIS WHO TOLD ME ABOUT THE PAST NEITHER KEVITCH NOR THE MOON ROACH COULD REMEMBER.

HE TOLD ME OF HIS LIFE AS A GARDENER FOR AN IMPORTANT FELDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, CARING FOR HIS HOUSEPLANTS AND ANTIQUE DRAPERIES...

HOW ONE DAY, HE HAD HEARD A STRANGE SOUND IN THE GREENHOUSE...

INVESTIGATING...

HE WAS SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY THE MOON ROACH'S COSTUME, GLOWING WITH AN EERIE LIGHT...

THE COSTUME REACHED OUT AND **GRABBED** HIM ...

HE WRESTLED WITH IT...

TRIED DESPERATELY TO **EXTRICATE** HIMSELF...

BUT THE **COSTUME** PREVAILED.

IT FELT, ARTEMIS SAID, LIKE HE WAS HAVING AN **ORIGIN**...

YOU SEE HOW HIS FACIAL MUSCLES RELAX WHEN HE'S *ARTEMIS* ...

I'VE TRIED TO HELP HIM ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS TO AID THE FELDAN PEOPLE. SINCE I HAVE FOUND THAT CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE IS WHAT CAUSED HIS...

CEREBUS HATES TO *INTERRUPT* ...

BUT DID YOU KNOW THE COOTIE DROPPED A BIG MOON ON HOLLAND M. HADDEN TONIGHT?

OH DEAR ...

...AND

CEREBUS FIGURES IF THEY LINE HIS BIRD CAGE WITH PADDING, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT HIM...

AND YOU'VE ...COME TO

ARREST HIM

...SELF.

HEY!

HEY! STOP THAT!!

LOOK, SISTER-- YOUR BOY-FRIEND HAS TO GO TO THE GALLOWS ...

IT'S NOT LIKE CEREBUS WANTS THE COOTIE DEAD...

I BELIEVE YOU

TAKE HIS *COSTUME* THEN

WHAT?!

HIS *COSTUME*. WITHOUT IT HE COULD NEVER BECOME THE *MOON ROACH* AGAIN.

I SHOULD *NEVER* HAVE KEPT IT -- SOMEWHERE IN THE BACK OF MY MIND, I ALWAYS HOPED HE COULD GIVE UP THE *MOON ROACH* ***VOLUNTARILY*** ...

NONE OF THAT MATTERS NOW...

DON'T YOU *SEE?* YOU CAN END HIS THREAT TO YOU JUST BY...

...WALKING AROUND IEST WITH A LUNATIC ASSASSIN'S LONG UNDERWEAR UNDER MY ARM...

WHY DON'T YOU KEEP IT TO *REMEMBER* HIM BY...?

YOU CAN WEAR IT TO BED AT NIGHT ...

THIS :SNIFF:

THIS IS JUST :SNIFF: A--A--

JOKE TO--TO YOU...

ISN'T IT?

YOU'LL NOTICE CEREBUS HASN'T ***LAUGHED*** ONCE SINCE HE GOT HERE

IT ISN'T GOING TO WORK, *LADY* ...

CEREBUS WANTS HIM OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE HE RUINS CEREBUS' *REPUTATION* ...

:SNIFF:

I...

I UNDERSTAND

NOTHING ***PERSONAL***, BUT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

I...

I UNDERSTAND

THEN YOU SHAN'T FEEL TOO BADLY

WHEN I **KILL** MYSELF ...

MOMENTS LATER, CEREBUS CROSSES THE PLAZA TO HIS WING OF THE REGENCY

"SO KILL YOURSELF" CEREBUS SHOULD HAVE SAID

"LET ME HELP YOU" CEREBUS SHOULD HAVE SAID.

HAVE TO BURN THE COSTUME

M'LORD CEREBUS?

WHAT IS IT, FATHER? CEREBUS IS **BUSY.**

I UNDERSTAND. I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY HIS HOLINESS TO SPEAK WITH YOU...

ABOUT MR. HADDEN'S DEATH TONIGHT

THOSE TWO GENTLEMEN YOU PASSED OUTSIDE...

INQUISITION.

I AM **LUZZO,** RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF **ESHNOSOPUR**

OH.

CEREBUS RECOGNIZED THE CAPES.

YOU ARE IN GRAVE DANGER

TREATIES BETWEEN PALNU AND HIS HOLINESS PROHIBIT YOUR **ARREST.**

BUT HOLLAND M. HADDEN WAS A WARD OF HIS HOLINESS.

THE CHURCH MUST BE REASSURED THAT YOU HAD NO PART IN HIS DEATH

IN A MOMENT, I WILL ASK YOU A *QUESTION* THAT WAS GIVEN ME BY HIS HOLINESS IN PRIVATE

WHEN I HAVE **ASKED** IT...

YOU MUST GO TO THOSE TWO MEN AND ANSWER "YES" OR "NO"...

THE QUESTION IS "DID YOU AT ANY TIME TODAY RECEIVE FROM HOLLAND M. HADDEN A SIGNED AND DATED CONTRACT?"

YOU HAVE A THOUSAND QUESTIONS TO ASK

BUT EVERY MOMENT YOU DELAY WILL ONLY **ENDANGER** YOU MORE

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY. THE CHURCH FINDS **HERESY** WHERE THEY WISH IT TO BE FOUND

AND MAY TARIM BE MERCIFUL...

YOU HAVE SUCH A DOCUMENT?

NO.

YOU HAVE MANY POWERFUL FRIENDS IN THIS CITY

IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT YOUR ...**IMPROPER**... BEHAVIOR IS... *TOLERATED*

HIS HOLINESS IS NOT WITHOUT *LIMITS* TO HIS PATIENCE, HOWEVER...

IF THE OCCASION SHOULD ARISE FOR US TO SPEAK WITH YOU, **AGAIN**

YOU WILL BE **APT** TO FIND YOUR MANY POWERFUL FRIENDS...

...**GONE.**

DO I MAKE MYSELF **CLEAR?**

AYE.

"PRAISE TARIM, MANIFEST OF LIFE..."

"CREATOR AND PRESERVER OF ALL THINGS."

CRUNK

UNORTHODOX ECONOMIC REVENGE

BELLOW THE BRONCHI OF THE SIMPLY SENSATIONAL !!!

MOON ROACH!

THIS IS GOING TO COMPLICATE MATTERS SOMEWHAT...

YOU KNOW CEREBUS WOULDN'T BE A BIT SURPRISED?

ALL RIGHT, BUG!

CEREBUS **GAVE** YOU A CHANCE...

SECONDS LATER...

SO--AN ENEMY FROM MY PAST!

ONCE THE SON OF THE GREATEST AERIAL TEAM IN ESTARCION, HIS MIND WAS WARPED WHEN EXPLOITIVE MONEY-LENDERS SAWED THROUGH HIS PARENTS WHILE THEY WERE SWINGING ON A TRAPEZE...

THANKS, KEVITCH.

DON'T MENTION IT...

IT WOULD SEEM YOU **HAVE** ME, NOW.

USING HIS CAPE TO CONCEAL HIS MOVEMENTS, THE MOON ROACH TAKES HOLD OF HIS ROACH-ROPE...

HIS MUSCLES ROLL AND SHIFT BENEATH HIS CLOTHING, LIKE...

LIKE...?

LIKE FIRM BREASTS?

THANK YOU, KEVITCH

SUDDENLY...

HEY!

FOLLOW ME, IF YOU CAN, **MONEY TYRANT!**

THE MOON ROACH LEAPS INTO SPACE

WHY DOES CEREBUS KEEP THINKING THE COOTIE IS ABOUT TO HAVE AN ATTACK OF MENTAL HEALTH?

HIS FOE IS AWE-STRUCK

YOU'RE CRAZY, BUG --DO YOU KNOW THAT?!

HSSS.

CAN IT BE TRUE? IS THE MOON ROACH REALLY FLEEING HIS MOST FEARSOME FOE?

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF HIS GIRL FRIEND? WILL LEAPING AROUND ALL NIGHT CONTINUE TO CAUSE VIRILITY PROBLEMS?

GIVE IT A REST, KEVITCH

SORRY, MOON ROACH.

GIVE UP, COOTIE! ...

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

CEREBUS JUST WANTS TO KILL YOU A LITTLE ...

SUDDENLY HIS ROACH HAND DROPS TO HIS ROACH BELT...

HE TURNS

AND HURLS A ROACH-ARANG...

... WITH UNERRING...

... ACCURACY

WHACK!

INTERESTING LITTLE DEVICE.

YESSIR.

CEREBUS ONLY HOPES FOR YOUR SAKE THAT IT TASTES GOOD, TOO.

C'MON COOTIE -- YOU'RE BOXED IN THIS TIME!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE, BUG!!

IF YOU COME OUT RIGHT NOW, CEREBUS WON'T MAKE YOU EAT IT ALL IN ONE BITE!!

HSSS!

UH?

IF YOU WOULD HAVE THE MOON ROACH FOR YOUR CAPTIVE ...

YOU MUST FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS

AS THE RAIN TRICKLES DOWN HIS CHEST AND INTO HIS SHORTS, THE MOON ROACH BEGINS TO THINK OF SHELTER

THE MOON ROACH CAN ALMOST READ THE ASTONISHMENT ON THE FACE OF HIS ADVERSARY

THE OUTER RAMPART IS AT LEAST THIRTY FEET FROM THE ROOFTOPS...

CEASE YOUR EXPLOITATION OF THE POOR, DESPOT ...

OR FACE THE FRANKLY FABULOUS FURY OF THE MOON ROACH!!

TARIM! HOW DID HE DO THAT?

LOOK— BUG!

LET'S- GET-ONE- -THING "

STRAIGHT!

RIGHT NOW!

CEREBUS IS BROKE!

AND DO YOU KNOW WHY CEREBUS IS BROKE?

CEREBUS WILL TELL YOU WHY HE'S BROKE "

BECAUSE YOU DROPPED A DAMN MOON ON HOLLAND M.HADDEN

AND MADE THE CONTRACT HE SIGNED WITH CEREBUS USELESS

HSSSSSSS.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, BUG?!

WHAT?

WHAT?

UNORTHODOX

ECONOMIC

REVENGE

YOU THINK YOU'RE SMART, DON'T YOU, BUG?

YOU FIGURE YOU GOT CEREBUS A GOOD ONE

MAYBE YOU DID, MAYBE YOU DIDN'T...

THAT'S **NOT** IMPORTANT

WHAT **IS** IMPORTANT, BUG-- WHAT MATTERS MOST OF ALL HERE...

IS THAT **CEREBUS** IS HOLDING THE WINNING HAND...

YOU SEE, YOU FORGOT **ONE** THING-- YOU FORGOT ABOUT YOUR GIRL FRIEND

YES, BUG! YOUR GIRL FRIEND.

CEREBUS KNOWS WHERE HER **APARTMENT** IS, BUG!

CEREBUS IS GOING THERE RIGHT NOW AND HE'S GOING TO DRAG HER TO PRISON!

THAT'LL BE THE END OF YOUR COZY LITTLE HIDE-OUT, WON'T IT?

THE START OF A WHOLE NEW LIFE FOR YOU!

YOU CAN JUMP AROUND UP HERE MORNING, NOON AND **NIGHT**

HOW DO YOU LIKE **THAT?**

YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR DEPTH THIS TIME, BUG!!

STAY OUT OF CEREBUS' WAY OR HE'LL STEP ON YOU...

HARD!

HAVING LEFT ASTORIA ENOUGH TIME TO MOVE TO AN ALTERNATIVE ROACH NEST...

THE MOON ROACH HASTENS TO THE NEW HIDEOUT

UNDERSTAND, BUG?!

RIGHT LADY!

NO TALK!

JUST COME ALONG QUIETLY AND...

CRASH

CEREBUS IS *NOT* GOING TO GIVE UP...

THE CHURCH WILL JUST HAVE TO BE *DEALT WITH.*

THE *PRIME MINISTER* WILL JUST HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH...

THE *INQUISITION* WILL JUST HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH...

THE MOON ROACH.

THE MOON ROACH *DEFINITELY* HAS TO BE DEALT WITH...

CRASH

THEY'RE NOT *REALLY* GETTING THE BEST OF CEREBUS...

THEY *THINK* THEY ARE ...

BUT CEREBUS ISN'T WITHOUT *RESOURCES* YOU KNOW... NOT BY A LONG SHOT...

CEREBUS HAS A KEEN INTELLECT AND AN INSTINCT FOR MANIPULATION ...

ONE LUCKY THROW! THAT'S ALL IT WAS. THE RAIN MADE IT HARD TO *SEE* ...

IF THAT BUG KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM, HE'S HALFWAY TO BEDUIN BY NOW ...

WITH THAT GIRL FRIEND OF HIS SLUNG OVER ONE SHOULDER ...

AS FOR THE *INQUISITION*, THERE ISN'T *MUCH* CEREBUS CAN DO...

ASIDE FROM BRUSHING UP ON HIS PRAYERS ...

MONEY IS THE KEY. IF CEREBUS WAS RICH, HE COULD START BUYING HIS WAY OUT OF *THESE* PROBLEMS

SO THAT'S THE NEXT STEP...

MONEY.

LOTS OF IT.

PLOP!

FOR STARTERS, THE PRIME MINISTER CAN FIND SOMEONE **ELSE** TO CLEAR UP HIS LITTLE "INDISCRETIONS"

HOLLAND M. HADDEN DIES AND CEREBUS IS UP TO HIS ARM-PITS IN **AGGRAVATION**...

ALL FOR THE BENEFIT OF A POWDER-PUFF CAUGHT WITH HIS PERFUMED FINGERS IN THE TILL!

FROM NOW ON CEREBUS IS IN BUSINESS FOR **HIMSELF** ...

NO MORE **FAVOURS**

NO MORE **TRADE-OFF'S**

NO MORE DOING BUSINESS WITH **DAMN FOOLS!!**

FROM NOW ON...

CEREBUS INTENDS TO BE TAKEN **SERIOUSLY**...

WHEN HE HEARS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE **CEREBUS** IS GOING TO LAY DOWN THE LAW...

BACK OFF!

CEREBUS KNOWS ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR CROOKED LITTLE SCHEMES TO GET YOU DEMOTED TO AN EMBASSY IN **BOREALA!**

THIS ISN'T SOME **AMATEUR** YOU'RE DEALING WITH, YOU KNOW...

CEREBUS HAS A LOT OF **VERY POWERFUL FRIENDS** IN THIS CITY...

YOU SOLVE **YOUR** PROBLEMS...

...AND **CEREBUS** WILL SOLVE **HIS OWN** PROBLEMS

THAT'S **IT!**

END OF DISCUSSION ...

END OF ARGUMENT

GET **OUT** OF CEREBUS' **LIFE**...

PERIOD!

OH, ***CERTAINLY.*** YES. I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU MEAN...

"FLUFFY."

'FLUFFY'

HAAHAA
HAAHAA
HAHAAA

HEEHEE
HEEHEE
HEEHEE

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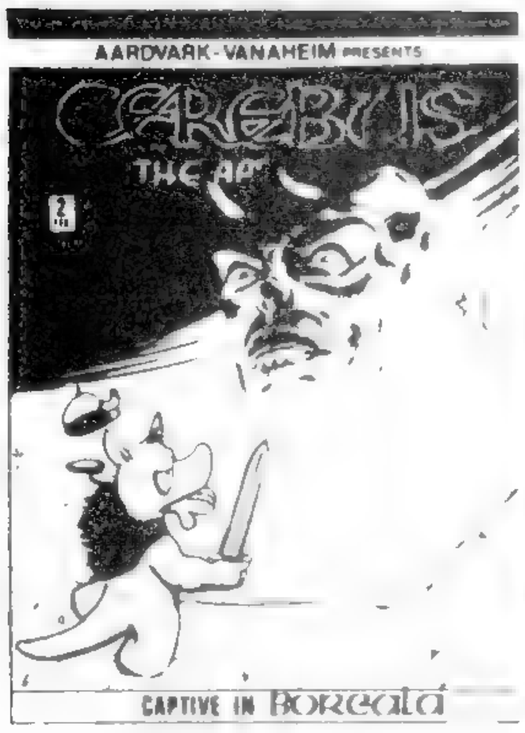

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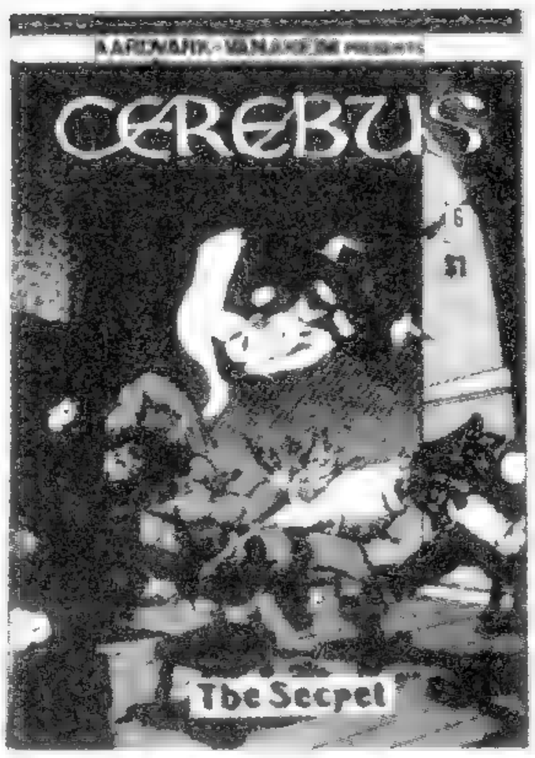

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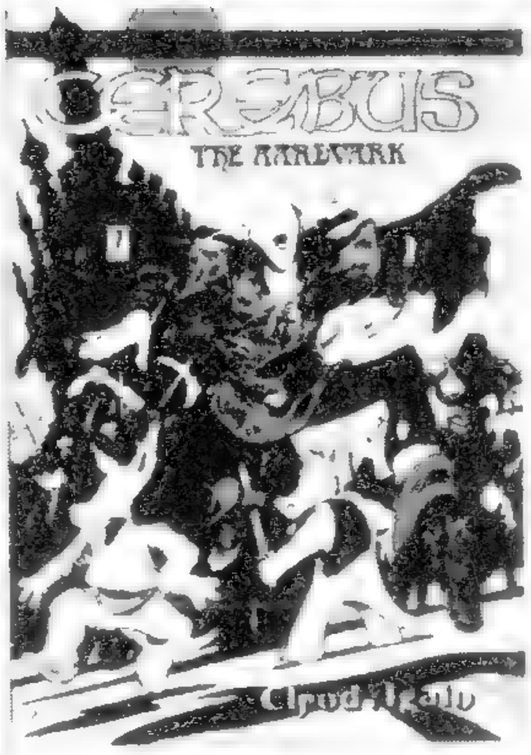

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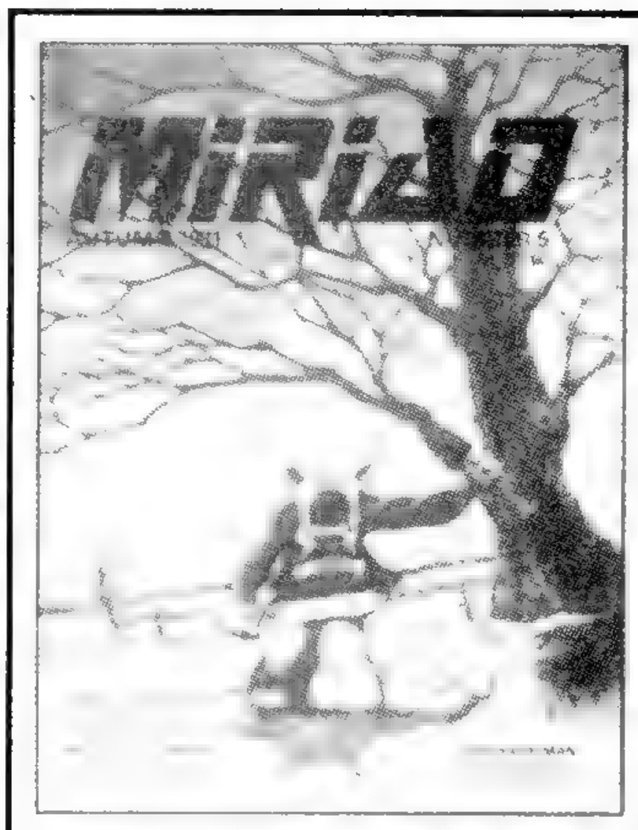

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WE NEVER HAVE ANY GOOD COOKIES AROUND HERE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I BOUGHT FOUR PACKS OF THEM OATMEAL GINGER SNAPS, MA...
YES -- BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUDGE DELIGHTS
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ATE ALL OF THEM IN ONE DAY!

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Deni:

I just got CEREBUS No. 26. Very interesting, as Arte Johnson used to say -- particularly the letters page -- pardon, the *letter* page.

I find myself agreeing with Patten & Co. about the abrupt transition and whatnot; to take T'Gitans as an example -- regardless of their military proficiency (or lack thereof), it seems a trifle annoying to dispose of them with one offhanded reference by a man of questionable veracity. It is true that littering the streets of Palnu with corpses while T'Gitans sack the place wouldn't be much fun for anyone (except maybe the Letterer), but you could have at least had a "Meanwhile -- in Palnu" aside which featured dead T'Gitans littering the streets, while the city's inhabitants went about their business, seemingly oblivious to the goings-on. Perhaps I've been overexposed to the likes of Monty Python, but the absurdity of that idea appeals to me.

And Lord Gorce -- we (the readers) know virtually nothing about him. How, then, are we supposed to know that he has any military ability at all? How do we know that Gudre's plan was flawed? Answer to both questions: We don't. It's all well and good for you to say, "Lord Gorce made quick work of the T'Gitan hordes", but the stories give us readers exactly one indication that that is so: Weisshaupt's word. That being the case, it's possible (maybe) that Gudre was some sort of military/tactical genius, and thus able to whup Gorce -- but again, there's too little information. Mumble, mumble, dissatisfaction.

("Note: Personally, I think Gudre might have been able to pull it off, using the old Blitzkrieg technique, whose guiding principle is, "You can get away with anything, if you can move faster than your opponent can react.")

Lord Julius? I like the way you're handling him, thus far. There's just one thing: You say that practically everyone in Palnu is employed by the government, and that Julius pays his armies well and his bureaucrats even better. Okay; but where does the big J get the wealth to pay his people? I'm not very good at economics (nobody is), but I don't quite understand where all that money comes from -- particularly not in a socialist state. Umm -- there *is* one more thing. If this issue is any indication, it's nigh-impossible to get a contract with Palnu -- on second thought, forget it. Just one more indicator of the socialist nature of Palnu.

About 19th-century conservatives: I, for one, will reserve judgment on them until we get more data on how well such methods work. Uncle Jimmy was clearly a bust, so let's give the new kid all the rope he wants, and see if he hangs himself, alright? Really, could RWR be any worse than his predecessors?

One more thing on Lord Gorce, and his Amazing Revolutionary Desires: Regardless of how many RPM Julius' bureaucracy rotates at, there must be some persons who do indeed have real power (Julius, for one) and do know the score -- a stable center, an axis, if you will. Unless that axis consists of Dr. J. alone (something I find difficult to swallow), the people in that axis will, being people, not have 100% identical thoughts and opinions regarding Julius-as-leader. Possibly, there might be at least one member of said axis who outright despises Lord Julius; more likely, there'd be folks who'd like someone a bit less frivolous for their Grandlord; and if all of the preceding is correct, Gorce has a ready-made spot to push in the thin end of his revolutionary wedge. All he has to do is locate the right people....

About the break between No. 20 and 21: I'll take your word for it, and continue greedily snapping up each new issue. Speaking of new issues, I'll now speak on the story of No. 26. I liked it -- as per normal for this zine. For some reason, I keep being reminded of King Gama in Princess Ida (is Dave a Gilbert & Sullivan fan?)... At any rate, I did indeed like this issue -- and thanks for showing us peons one way that Palnu gets its money (but do you expect us to believe that there are enough gullible people in Estarcion to support Palnu? But then, at 700 crowns per, I suppose you don't need too many pigeons...). By the by -- how came you to put in circular panel-borders? Perchance was it because of the trivial fact that much existing coinage is also circular? Regardless of the reason, it worked.

Thought for Dave: Ignore any suggestions that you change the way you do things in CEREBUS. You're doing wonderfully as is, and complaints such as the ones I started with are simply offered from concern that the Earth-Pig might deteriorate into Just Another Zine (highly unlikely, but the concern is still there...). What the hell, part of the fun is, as with any continuing story, attempting to second-guess the course the book will take. Thus far, I've never done so successfully, but I don't care, because the weirdness which *does* occur is so good.

Quentin
845 Laverne Way
Los Altos, Calif. 94022

There is indeed too little information. To be quite frank, I am torn on the one hand between telling everything in a kind of monumental sixty-page-three-issue-crash-semester-of-Estarcion-501, that would keep the Continuity Wolves at bay and probably plummet sales, and my author's instinct which says that as long as you're all drooling out there, I must be doing something right.

Personally, I agree with you on the Blitzkrieg thought. The standing army being raised by Groce would have to be highly undisciplined, disorganized and tentative by virtue of its makeshift origin. The confidence needed by the T'gitans to overcome the sheer numbers can be attributed to their being equally new to the eating up of someone else's territory. Chances are they would have expected no greater resistance in their assault on Palnu than they faced at Fluroc. Basically this is about as sound as the Russians capturing Martha's Vineyard and figuring taking Washington would be as easy.

Since we are travelling with Cerebus and hearing news of other cities about as fast and as often as he does, and since Weisshaupt had a vested interest in Cerebus giving up the T'gitans, I would say you could attach as much credibility to it as you think is appropriate. Most Cerebus fans I've talked to seem to think Weisshaupt suckered him. Weisshaupt is an interesting chap and a wheeler-dealer. We're not done with him yet.

Palnu is essentially structured like a feudal society. It is in the middle of some of the best agricultural land in Estarcion. It produces enough to feed all the farmers and their families as well as the population of the actual city. The crop failures mentioned so often in the Feldwar States and lest have missed the Palnan lands. Think of them as wheat Arabs. They are being courted for their wealth.

Lord Julius is not playing by the established rules and his reputation of grand larceny as Economic Policy has ruined him in the eyes of the other world leaders. But so what? As the Palnan currency goes so goes the Feldwar States, lest and several of the Southern City-States.

This is too attractive to the emerging class of merchants to pass up no matter what Lord Julius' reputation. For his part, the proceeds Lord Julius realizes from bribe money more than compensates for the fact that he pays about twenty percent more than the going price on his government contracts. It maintains his image as the eccentric you can milk for millions if you just know the right buttons to push and increases the incoming bribes which he distributes to all his bureaucrats, soldiers and cronies in ever-increasing amounts, like dividends for being an up-standing citizen. Citizenship in Palnu is by invitation only. You have to show the ability to make lots of money and connive your way out of paying your bills. The peasant farmers are kept at a very low standard of living, but they are permitted to trade their surplus wheat to whichever market they choose to sell; lest, Beduin, Sepran Empire, Upper Felda. The ones who start making money in large amounts begin sending in their own bribes get an invitation to a Festival or High Tea or Lord Julius' Every Other Fortnight Booze-up and are granted instructions on where they start work. At the end of their first day on the job, they get sealed

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

instructions on where they report for work the next day. You answer all the mail when you arrive at your post and then you go home. All correspondence coming into the city is searched. Any bribe over a fixed amount is relayed directly to Lord Julius' office. Any bribe below that amount is viewed as groft money, split more or less equally between the army and the bureaucracy. In your spare time you can do business with anyone you want. A lot of these people sell directories in their spare time. They just don't deliver. You get a pretty good tootsy-frootsying when you deal with anyone from Palnu.

That's what's hard about locating the right people (in your Gorce scenario). The Eye in the Pyramid is a conspiracy of dissatisfied bureaucrats. Anyone found at a meeting or in the company of a known "Eye" doesn't receive instructions on where next to report for work. Within twenty-four hours, they lose influence in all sectors of the society including whatever tenacious contact they established with the upper echekous and inner circles. Opting for the "Eye" is usually the last resort of a bailing bureaucrat. They have no access to the bribes and must subsist on what they earn outside the bureaucracy. Most are ejected from the city if they refuse to change their behavior. The nutbar in issue 14 through 16 was obviously not a major force in the group judging by his stringent idealism about the movement. There are also diverging viewpoints on how solid the group is. Anyone who might know would have a vested interest in lying about it.

For the next number of issues, we'll be seeing the effect all of this has had on Cerebus. He understands that Palnu operates on a system that is largely smoke and no fire. He was uncomfortable in Palnu, not so much because he objected to it morally or (as he claimed) that he wanted to be back in the great outdoors. As I mentioned in an earlier letter column, he hasn't slept in a tree for a while. He sought a roof and a warm bed as early as No. 17. The urban attitudes he found strange and unattractive early on now have obvious reason to him; wealth for its own sake. Getting a wall full of gold because you beat someone at his own game is satisfying to Cerebus in a way that stumbling onto it could never be.

Anyone else want a nice long answer?

Dear Dave and Deni,

Curiouser and curiouser. The audacious aardvark's first Mind Game in issue No. 20, then a President *Weisshaupt*, then Cerebus' signing of his own ransom note, in issue No. 27, with the telltale eye-in-the-pyramid, and now, with issue No. 28, we find our befuddled beast tripping through (Leary's?) Eighth Sphere into "Mind Game II", learning that the *Illusionists* wield a certain influence on the Estarcion political scene. And Cerebus as a one-time sorceror's adept! What won't you think of next?! Is it possible that you have seen the fnords???

Sirius, I mean, seriously, I've been following the aardvark's adventures since his inception, and have yet to be disappointed. But the (cosmic) trigger of this current issue has finally prompted me to express my appreciation. The crisp, clean artwork, biting satire and profound wit, the often poetic quality of the scripting, not to mention the irascible yet eminently lovable earth-pig himself all combine to make for one of the best comics on the market today -- underground, above ground, or otherwise. And, to think: CEREBUS is a Canadian product! Nationalistic fervour is not my trip, but it's heartening to see some down-home folks making good -- in fact, making better and better -- especially in a country so often lacking in identity and pride.

Really, I'm not interested in trying out for the Comics Journal. I just wanted to thank you both for such superior work.

Diana Schutz
524 Lakeshore Road
Beaconsfield, Quebec
Canada H9W 4J7

Thank you for making nice on me. Perhaps if more Canadian comic book conventions would have headline Canadian guests (Gene Day, Rand Holmes, Arn Saba, Jim Craig, Ken Steacy) instead of only *featuring American talent, there might be more of a sense of Canadian identity and pride in these individuals. It's a strange country.*

Dear Dave & Deni (now clearly not Pave and Peni)

Cerebus 29! Romantic interest returns to the chronicles of the valiant, swords-wielding earth-pig born. The aardvark may be only enjoying a foil for his duel-sharp wit and a drinking companion (does the Regency Elf tipple Apricot Brandy?), but we, your faithful readers, are out-right glad to see a well-drawn curve undulate from frame to frame.

The last supra-normal undulations from the superb Sim pen were Henrot's bubbly, emotion-hungry Gerbies in Cerebus 19. Mayhap we'll meet them again; they'd be just right as messengers between the hotel-bound (?) elf and the boundless Cerebus.

Four "Thankyou's"

1. For bringing those rotten dirty Fleagle Brothers within range of Aardvarkian vengence.
2. For revealing Cerebus in his naked glory (No. 29 pg. 3); my wife loved it, and I was glad you got rid of the frilly lace neck-piece!
3. For your Cerebus portfolio: "Six Deadly Sins". They're not merely well done; not merely dramatic & hilarious & insightful -- they're deucedly clever.
4. For having the persistence to produce excellence -- a Shakespearean blend of high comedy, intense drama, and psychological subtlety -- making Cerebus unequaled in comicdom.

Four "Requests"

A. Get *Cerebus* listed in Overstreet's *"Comic Book Price Guide"*
B. Tell us where to find: *Unique Stories*
C. Tell us where to find: Diamond Back Decks
D. Keep up the fine work!

David A. Holt
1966 Main West #1108
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1J6

P.S. Is the Regency Elf a portrait of Deni?

A. Depending on where you are when you suggest this, you can get a lot of applause or you can get beaten to within an inch of your life. I think this is one of those things that will happen if enough people write to Bob Overstreet. Or another copy of number one sells for $125 in front of him.

B. The post-mortems are in Deni's letter elswhere in this issue.

C. Diamondback Decks will be available from all of the distributors listed on the inside front cover for $2.95 (plus a little something for postage). We will be selling a limited edition signed and numbered series of 500 that will be available only from us for $3.95 Limit of one per order. Deni will tell you when to send for them. When Deni is no longer hip deep in mail that needs to be answered; that's when Deni will tell you you can order.

Dear Dave and Deni,

Well, the postal strike is in its sixth week and even though it has shown signs of becoming as long-running and damaging an institution as the Alberta-Ottawa energy talks, "reliable sources" tell us that the tentative settlement will be ratified and everything will be on the move in a couple or so days. So, being the incredible optimist that I am (and *naturally* being trusting of *reliable* sources) I'm gambling and writing to you now.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Did you miss me? I'm sure you did. (But don't get *too* effusive about it.)

When I saw the cover of No. 28, I was immediately apprehensive. The illustration itself was fine, continuing the trend in recent issues to very good covers, but it was the title, "Mind Games II", that bothered me. Sequels are almost always disappointments. (The only exception in the past few years in my view being "The Empire Strikes Back" over "Star Wars".) Who can forget such travesties as "Rocky II", "Jaws 2", "Beneath the Poseiden Adventure" (or whatever)....? Sure, No. 20's "Mind Game" was different, sure it was good, but were you going to the well once to often? Was No. 28 going to be a mere continuation or swipe from No. 20 instead of a true progression or embelishment? Well, *was* it?

Well, as I'm sure *someone* famous once said, it was worse than I had hoped but better than I had feared. It was still confusing (or perhaps enigmatic) but new shafts of illumination were seen. The dialogue was perhaps wittier still than No. 20. And this time the abrupt change from last issue's plotline can be seen as part of a plan rather than greeted with pure incomprehension as it was before. Only, I hope that you *are* going to complete the kidnapping story properly. If you don't, then "Mind Game II" can be viewed as a cop-out or as coasting. ("Whenever I plot myself into a corner, I'll just give 'em "Mind Game X' and be on my way.") So, does the "continued" at story's end refer to No. 29 or to, say, No. 36?

Lastly, I thought that the pictures didn't mesh too well with the words this time out. Each was nice on its own, but the synergistic relationship was not always present. (Have you ever considered writing a Cerebus novel to get this surfeit of words out of your system?)

Here's hoping that you get this at least a few weeks before Easter.

"T.M. Maple"
No. 672

My first letter after the postal strike ended. Good news, eh? There are going to be more MIND GAME stories in the future. MIND GAME III will introduce a new character to the Earth-Pig's brain. As for completing the kidnapping story, Cerebus has made a wise decision to not talk about it. Again, the fact that he woke up safe played a large part in the decision. The difference in time lapses will be explained in the story "What Happened Between Issues Twenty and Twenty-two" that Gene Day and I will be cramming into 8 pages in the back of Swords of Cerebus Volume 3. I am intentionally continuing each story and picking up within minutes of the previous story's ending, now, so as to avoid this sense of missing critical puzzle pieces. "What Happened..." will give you an idea of the kind of things going on around him that Cerebus isn't aware of, but a good bit of it will be enigmatic, indeed -- Sorry.

Dear Dave,

Who is the human in the Cerebus costume of late? Cerebus seems to have grown human arms, and looks like soon he will have human legs. It doesn't look right on an Earth-Pig Born. Cerebus has changed quite a lot since issue No. 1, lost a lot of nose, and most of it for the better, but Cerebus just doesn't look right as a short human with a tail and oversized Spock ears.

Remember what you wrote in Swords of Cerebus, Volume 1, before issue No. 1. You apologized for the gross-out on page two, but said it was necessary to convince people that the cute aardvark could be (and is) mean. Cerebus is not so cute any more, and he is losing the build in contradiction of cuteness versus nastyness. When Cerebus is looking as mean as he does now, he loses the karima of the "killer-who-looks-like-a-bunny". A "killer-who-looks-like-an-aardvark-thug" is not Cerebus. Issue No. 6, page 3, first panel sums up Cerebus exactly: a cute Cerebus is holding a sword, standing on a big lug of a human who Cerebus has just clobbered, and Cerebus is mumbling to himself "TARIM! It never fails -- two hours in any of these accursed cities and some farmer with more muscle than brains comes flying at me..."

Picture Cerebus with huge muscular arms (like he is now) standing on top of that guy. Cerebus now looks like he could beat that guy with no problem, as well as make a bull elephant yell "uncle". The contradiction of Cerebus is not there. This contradiction of cute and nasty is what makes Cerebus so much fun to read. I grant you that we don't need to see it in a tragedy. I hope you understand what I am trying to say, and agree with me. Could you give Cerebus back his cute, non-muscular, tubular arms.

If you don't agree, I think we ought to put it up for a reader survey. Hey Fans of Cerebus, write in and tell Dave whether or not you like to see Cerebus with muscles. (I know, Dave, you're an artist and it's kind of uncool for me to tell you how to draw *your* character, but Cerebus is everybody's now, I hope.)

Mark Hahn
P.O. Box 2339
Campus Station
Socorro, New Mexico

Let's not shuffle my bread and butter into the "public domain" category just yet, Mark (I think I understand what you mean). Anyone want to second the motion from the right honorable member for Campus Station?

Comrades:

I want to thank you for Cerebus and the way he dispelled all my fears. Yes, thanks to Cerebus I am no longer tortured by the anxiety which haunted me day and night ... And I owe it all to you. What, you ask, oh what spectre plagued this innocent lad; preyed on his mind.

I was afraid I might accidentally have some money left over at the end of the summer.

Well, our valiant earth-pig took care of that in a hurry. After some clod made me read No's. 24 - 27, I ran out and spent everything I had on more Cerebus.

I'm not much of a comics buff, so I can't comment on artwork or publishers or underground comics and I can't say I rank Cerebus with Elfquiest of X-Men or Man-Thing because I've never heard of them (an unpardonable sin, I imagine) but if it's any consolation, I rank Cerebus with Doonesbury and Mad as an excellent satire (which I consider one of the highest art forms.) (Which is why I was so overjoyed to see my idol Julius Marx in a Duck Soup-like story way back in No. 14. I think Lord Julius would curb his tyrannical ways with a Margaret Dumont character by his side.) Tarim, I'm getting bogged down in parenthetical phrases!

As I said (well no, I didn't say, I wrote), I know nothing of art, but I can appreciate Bardic talent. Julius' Marxian dialogue is flawless, as is Elrod's "Senator Claghorn" accent.

Good Luck and thanks again for a comic that saved me from the brink of sanity.

Peter Steiger
Box 15906
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

drool-drool-gibber* Yer welcome *huh huh huh

UNIQUE STORIES

and

OUT OF THE DEPTHS

This is an announcement that I am not very happy to make. In the last few months I've been writing a lot about "Unique Stories". Unfortunately, I have come to realize that now is not the time for me to branch out into a new venture, and so I am going to have to announce that "Unique Stories" and "Out of the Depths", as of now, has been cancelled. Cerebus has been growing at a tremendous rate, and as a result -- I've been unable to spend hardly any time at all on "Unique Stories" and "Out of the Depths".

The submissions have piled up and the letters of inquiry from the ads posted have gone unanswered. With 60 to 80 Cerebus letters to answer every month, let alone the legal and technical problems that have to be dealt with every day, I just had to let this go. I finally have realized that the decision to do "Unique Stories" and "Out of the Depths" was just not a timely one. As much as I want to do Unique, I would have to let too many things slide with Cerebus. And that, I cannot do.

What time I've been able to spend on artists such as Arn Saba and Brent Alan Richardson was not enough and a lot of work would have to be done before their work could see print. It will, in time, see print. But for now I don't want a rushed job, and I feel confident that any artist would feel the same way.

I apologize to those of you who have sent me submissions, especially if you've not heard back from me. I have at least 30 of them sitting next to me that I haven't even seen yet. Everyone *will* hear from me in some form or another, though.

With any luck, and a bit more experience and time, I will probably try again. When I do, and when all the machinery for setting up a new book is in place -- I'll let you know. I'll probably let the whole world know. It's a disappointment to me and to those of you who were either looking forward to reading or hoping to submit material for it. But I refuse to do it if it isn't done right. I only hope you all agree with me and are willing to bear with my growing pains.

Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and support of "Unique Stories" and "Out of the Depths."

Deni Sim

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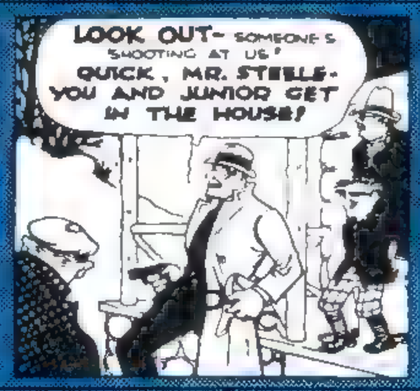

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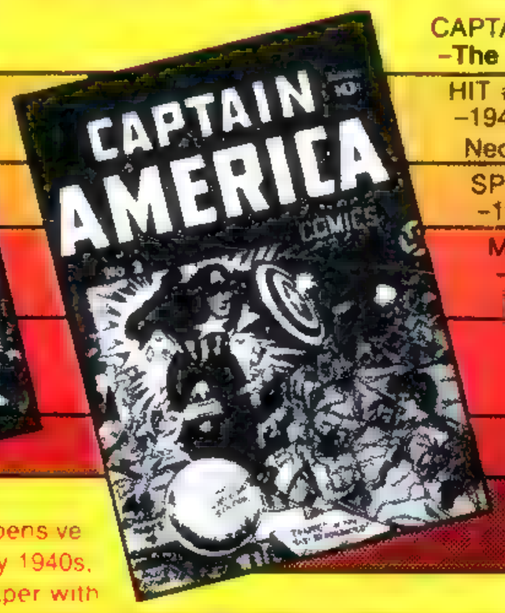

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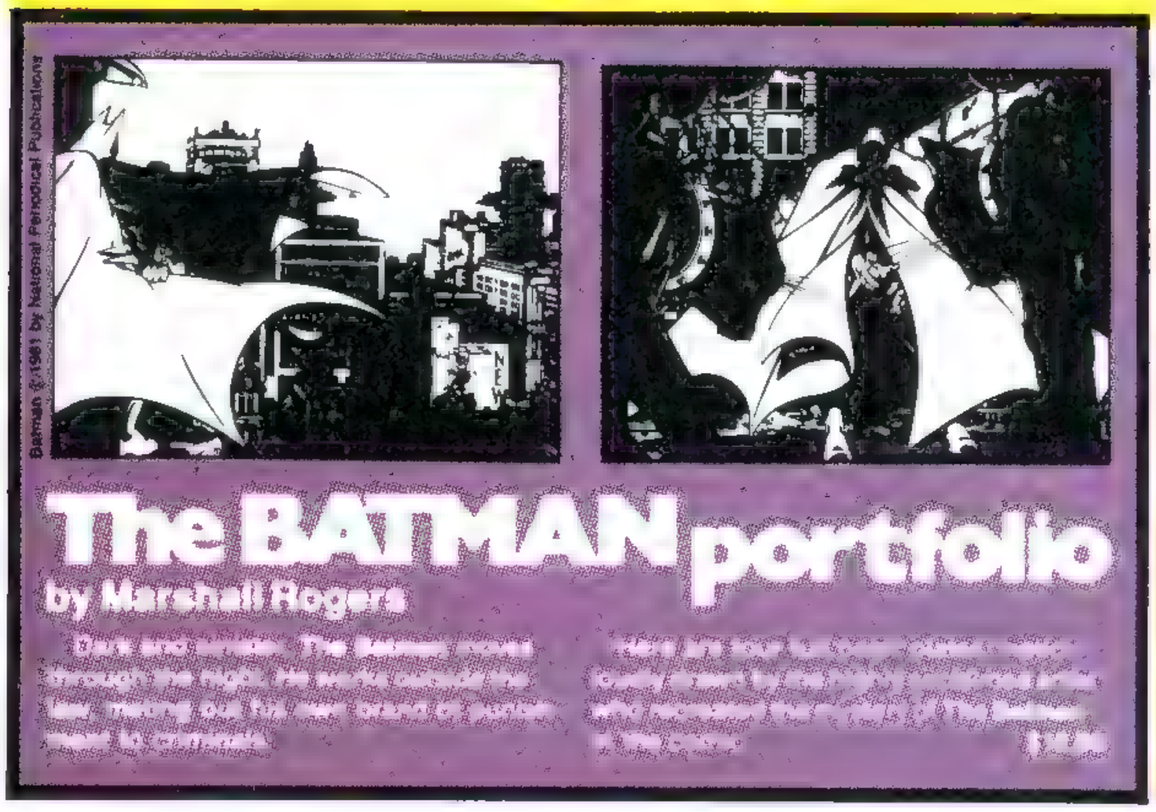

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CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"Letter from Dave McDonnell re: article about the counterfeit Cerebus No.1 along with Deni's and Karen McKiel's handwritten annotations setting up an interview time."

- Dave Sim

5/18

Dear Dave and Deni:

Thanks very much for your time and cooperation on May 6th during our phone interviews regarding the CEREBUS rip-offs.

I've since had many, many (and would have had more had my phone bill been able to afford it) conversations regarding the counterfeit matter and I remain rather stunned by it all.

The resulting article is set to appear in COMICS SCENE#5, out in mid-July, in the news section. I'm sure that by that time, there will also be coverage in print in THE COMICS JOURNAL and THE COMICS READER.

One other matter. As I told you, Dave, I've long had a query in with COMICS SCENE Editor Bob Greenberger about my interviewing you for a future issue. Well, after you said "certainly, whenever he gives you the go-ahead," I told Bob and he smiled a lot and said, "Great, Do it!"

Hmmmm, so anyhow, at your convenience, sometime this summer, perhaps at a convention (though I attend few, having kept, despite MEDIA REPORT, TBG FUNNIES, PREVUE, etc, a profile in fandom only slightly higher than J.D. Salinger's) or by phone if necessary, we can get together and do the COMICS SCENE Interview: Dave Sim, as they say.

"Letter from Dave McDonnell re: article about the counterfeit Cerebus No.1 along with Deni's and Karen McKiel's handwritten annotations setting up an interview time."

- Dave Sim

page two//

There is, at this time, no haste to this, because no deadline was assigned to me with it (the next is July 1st). Preferably, if you're game, we can do it and have it scheduled so as to promote a certain A-V publication, perhaps the next SWORDS OF CEREBUS or something.

I prefer to do pieces which help to promote something upcoming (for example, a recent interview I did with Max Allan Collins talks a lot about MS. TREE's new comic)...and hopefully, we can find such a news angle to tie in with you.

Well anyhow, thanks again to both of you.

Best,

Dave McDonnell

Home/office:
1207 Colony Ct #327
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-273-9813

call about East Coast tour (early July?)

late June or early July. Before Chicago. SWORDS II or V Sept. 1st deadline. November issue.

Oct 10-12

"Deni's letter replying."

- Dave Sim

Dave McDonnell
1207 Colony Court
Lebanon, Penn. 17042

Dear Dave:

This is just a short note to let you know that Dave and I will be in New York City for the tour on October 2-6th. We will be in Baltimore on October 8th. If Baltimore is easier for you, just let us know. We will have October 5th and 6th 'free' to talk to you in NYC if that is any easier for you.

Dave will be doing a piece of art for the interview as well. I have talked to Bob Greenberger about this and he has agreed on it.

If you could just drop me a note or postcard confirming one of the above dates it will make my organizationing that much easier.

Thanks for your interest in this. We will see you in October!

Sincerely

Deni Sim

"Dave McDonnell's reply."

- Dave Sim

1207 Colony Ct #327
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-273-9813
August 23, 1982

Dear Deni and Dave:

Your letter with its urgent request to name dates has been sitting here for at least ten days as I traipsed off elsewhere: first to Scranton to watch THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON being filmed, then to Chicago for DR. DETROIT and BAD BOYS (and to interview Dan Aykroyd, Howard Hesseman and others), then to Long Island, for vacation weekend.

It collected dust--along with several other letters--because I was awaiting copies of a periodical I intend to send you all.

Except it still hasn't come!

And I can't in any good conscious keep you all waiting any longer, so I'll have to send it later when/IF it ever arrives. Thank you, Godot Express.

I can't do that in good conscience, either.

Although I will be moving--depending on some circumstances (briefly, my life has been delayed somewhat by problems with my 89-year-old grandmother who moved from Altoona,PA to here to hospital to nursing home this summer)--about September 25th to Baltimore, I think let's do the interview in NYC October 5th and 6th (probably 5th, but either is OK for me).

Bob Greenberger told me you all are having lunch sometime then. And he told me everything is set for the artwork, great.

I hope I've not held up your organizational plan for those weeks any. I do hope if ever the magazine gets here and if ever I send it, it'll be worthwhile.

Further help: I will probably arrive in NYC either Oct 3rd (Sun) or 4th and stay with ye old good friend in NJ who I usually infringe upon--and I may try to put together another interview or two for the same days, but whatever time period on the 5th and 6th is perfectly OK with me.

OK? OK.

Take care.

Dave
McDonnell

Baltimore - Friday the 5th around 1:30 pm. Send a note when we know the hotel

"HI DE HO COMICS' Robert F. Hennessey's letter, which – coupled with the planned East Coast Tour mentioned in HSA 270 to 273, led to the idea of a national U.S. Tour in 1982."

- Dave Sim

Deni and Dave Sim
. O. Box 1o74 Station
itchener, Ontario N2G 4

Dear Deni and Dave,

I am writing on behalf of several Californ
comic book stores. We are interested in sponsorin
ek-long book-signing excursion down the Cali-
fornia coast either immediately before or after th
n Diego Comic Book Convention in July.

Our speculation is that if you will be in Cal-
ifornia at that time, we could help to cover your
travel expenses and promote your books. We would
get valuable publicity and(presumably) increased
sale.

If this sounds practical, please contact us
at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith

HI DE HO
COMICS & FANTASY
1413 5th Street, Santa Monica, California 90401
Phone (213) 394-2020

" Bob Rittinger was then working in the KITCHENER-WATERLOO RECORD newsroom and persuaded them that this was a news story. This is a copy of the photo taken by staff photographer Dwight Storring they used with the story "Pirate grabs artist's aardvark" written by April Lindgren. The caption read "David Sim holds a 1977 original of his comic while his wife, Deni, who publishes his work is behind the office door". Actually it was the front door to my studio, so Deni was actually out in the hall. The "fake reality" of news photography never fails to astound. [see Page 40]"

- Dave Sim

"Obverse of photograph. Of course I used it in Aardvark Comment and didn't say anything to them about it. How would they find out?"

- Dave Sim

"Letter from Diana Schutz (co-signed by Tim Wallace) taking issue with Deni's version of events as documented in her Note from the Publisher in CEREBUS No.38 and taking issue with the assertion that it was naive to think you could buy 10 copies of CEREBUS No.1 in mint condition for $30 each in 1982."

- Dave Sim

2461 TELEGRAPH AVENUE • BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704 • TELEPHONE (415) 843-5405

June 7, 1982

Dear Deni and Dave,

Having been (unwittingly) involved in the recent Cerebus scam, I read your current editorial (issue #38) with some interest, and I'd like to clear up what seem to be a few misconceptions on your part.

First of all, so far as I know, most if not all of the counterfeits were sold to dealers and not fans. As such, $25.00 is not a "ridiculously low price", given that we're talking wholesale and not retail rates. Let me explain. Perhaps NOW & THEN BOOKS can get away with selling a mint Cerebus #1 for $250.00. With Canadian distribution of the original #1 being three times lower than U.S. distribution, it stands to reason that the Canadian supply is lower--therefore, the price will be greater. (And was that $250.00 U.S. funds? Let's not forget to take into account the rather significant dollar difference between the two countries.) Also, Kitchener is hardly a major city--having grown up in Montreal, I feel I can safely make that claim--and due to "laws" of supply and demand, dealers in smaller communities are often able to charge more for collectables than dealers in urban areas. In any case, COMICS & COMIX' retail price for an original Cerebus #1 is $100.00--not $250.00.

When so-called Joe Average sold his copies of Cerebus #1 to COMICS & COMIX, I was at home enjoying my day off. As a company buyer, however, I was called by my cohort, Tim Wallace, and I transacted the deal over the phone, instructing him as to what to pay for these books. My instructions were as follows: "If the guy wants to sell a couple copies or so, pay him 50% of retail price. If it is a bulk buy, i.e. more than five copies, give him no more than 30% of retail price." If this seems unfair to you, let me explain a little further. A book with a hefty price tag ($50.00 or more) does not sell nearly as quickly as a book with, say, a $5.00 price tag. Furthermore, for any major purchase most dealerships (and certainly COMICS & COMIX) offer a courtesy discount of 10% and often more. Thus, we're now talking a $90.00 retail price. Now, in the case of a bulk deal, my buying percentages are, of necessity, well below the 50% of retail range. The reason for this has to do with turnover time: several copies of a particular collectable comic are going to take much longer to sell than one or two copies. With cash flow a major concern in these days of Reaganomics, I have to worry about putting out x number of dollars for books which may sit on our shelves for months, or years in some cases. As it was, we bought 10 copies of what we thought was the original #1 for $30.00 apiece--and so were ripped off to the tune of $300.00. Given what I have just explained, do you think my buying practices are unfair? Does $30.00 still seem "ridiculously low" to you? I'd seriously be interested in your response.

John Barrett • Bud Plant

"Letter from Diana Schutz (co-signed by Tim Wallace) taking issue with Deni's version of events as documented in her Note from the Publisher in CEREBUS No.38 and taking issue with the assertion that it was naive to think you could buy 10 copies of CEREBUS No.1 in mint condition for $30 each in 1982."

- Dave Sim

2461 TELEGRAPH AVENUE • BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704 • TELEPHONE (415) 843-5405

I've enclosed a copy of the current COMICS & COMIX newsletter, The Telegraph Wire #4, specifically because it contains an article on the Cerebus scam along with a checklist of means of distinguishing original #1's from the phonies. The checklist is a conglomerate of information I received from C&C publicist Tom Walton and from Mitch Cohn of FantaCo. If you have any additions or corrections to the list, I'd appreciate knowing them--and so would fandom-at-large, I suspect.

One more tidbit which might interest you is that, at a recent distributors' meeting in New York, the distributors decided to put up a $1000.00 reward for (I believe) information leading to prosecution of the individuals responsible for this grand-scale rip-off. Why they didn't just turn this money over to you in order to finance a copyright violation suit, I don't know. Perhaps you should suggest this to them.

Obviously, this letter is not for print. I do want to say, however, that as a Cerebus afficionado, a Canadian, a fan, and a dealer, I too am outraged by this entire affair. What frightens me is that, should the guilty parties not be apprehended, a precedent will be established for future counterfeit scams, and everyone--creators, dealers, and fans--will suffer as a result.

Yours in good faith--

Diana Schutz

Tim Wallace

John Barrett • Bud Plant

"KITCHENER WATERLOO RECORD article about the counterfeits."

- Dave Sim

Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Local News

FAKE COMICS ON SALE

Pirate grabs artist's aardvark

By APRIL LINDGREN
Record Staff Writer

Dave Sim's talent has made some unscrupulous racketeer at least $50,000 richer.

The Kitchener comic book artist has learned that the rare first issue of his best-selling comic book, Cerebus the Aardvark, is being reproduced and sold in the U.S. for about $25 a copy.

When Sim drew the introductory issue in December, 1977, only 2,000 copies were printed. Now, 36 issues and 4½ years later, about 15,000 copies of each new issue are sold to readers in Canada, the U.S., Europe and Australia each month.

The comic, which its 26-year-old creator says is "about one funny animal in a world of humans," is one of the most successful alternatives to the super-hero products of Marvel and Detective Comics (D.C.) It is also the only surviving Canadian comic book.

Collectors have paid as much as $250 for a perfect copy of the first issue, which introduced the strange adventures of Sim's aardvark (an African ant-eating mammal) and his brand of political, social and economic satire.

"We started hearing about the bogus copies Monday morning," said Sim's wife Deni, who publishes the comic.

"I had a phone call from New York. This fellow is something of an expert on comics, particularly Cerebus the Aardvark. He'd been called by a comic shop that bought 32 copies of Cerebus for $25 each.

"The shop thought the whole thing looked kind of fishy and asked him to authenticate the comics and he found five discrepancies," she said.

Slight variations in the design and colors on the cover, and the color of the staples — the counterfeiters used copper instead of steel blue — gave the game away, she said.

"After the first call, we thought it wasn't too serious, that the copies were just in the New York area. Then at noon we had a call from a comic shop in Dallas. He said he had 40 copies and had heard of others in California. He wanted to know if it was possible that someone would have held on to that many perfect copies since 1977."

By Wednesday night, the Sims knew that between 1,000 to 2,000 bogus copies were distributed on Friday and Saturday, "probably by about 10 people who just got on planes and headed all over the States," Deni said.

A Toronto dealer was contacted but didn't purchase any of the counterfeit copies, she said. Dealers in the San Francisco Bay area, Long Island, N.Y., and Madison, Wis. weren't as wary.

Those who fell for the fakes have called the police "and maybe even the FBI," but there's been little news of arrests so far, Sim said.

"In San Francisco, the guy selling them said he was from Calgary and had got them at a flea market. He said he was broke and needed the money. When they caught him, it turned out he was from the San Francisco area," Deni said.

Dave Sim holds a 1977 original of his comic while his wife, Deni, who publishes his work is behind the office door.
Record Photo by Dwight Storring

Unless fraud can be proven, most of those arrested will face charges related to copyright infringement "and that's a misdemeanor so they'll get a $200 fine and a slap on the wrist," Sim said.

The self-taught artist, who grew up in Kitchener and did freelance comic work before starting Cerebus, said the counterfeit sales don't affect him financially because Cerebus is sold directly to specialty comic shops and that's when he gets his share.

"I guess I'm flattered as hell that someone sat down and said the easiest way to make some big money over the weekend would be to steal something I did.

"But at the same time I feel resentful of the fact that we could have done the same thing. We could have reprinted, put a little R (for reprint) on the cover and then sold them for $20 each because there's such a demand.

"But I didn't and that was my concession to the collectors. This just shows the greedy side of comics.

Issue one was a perfect target for the counterfeiter because the black and white format is simple to reproduce and because its popularity and scarcity meant dealers and collectors were "eager to believe they're getting their hands on one," he said.

What's more, comic conterfeiting is rare and dealers have little reason to expect fakes. Sim, who has been a comic fan for years, said he's aware of only one other counterfeiting incident.

That involved the first issue of the New York-produced horror magazine, Eerie. The issue was released in 1965 and reproductions showed up in 1974, he said.

The Sims have run into other copyright issues now that Cerebus the Aardvark has a circulation that doubles annually and a loyal following complete with California-based fan club and newsletter. At the moment, they are fighting a legal battle against an English firm which is producing and selling lead miniatures of Cerebus.

"We found out about that in October and we want some of the royalties," Sim said.

"KITCHENER WATERLOO RECORD article about the counterfeits."

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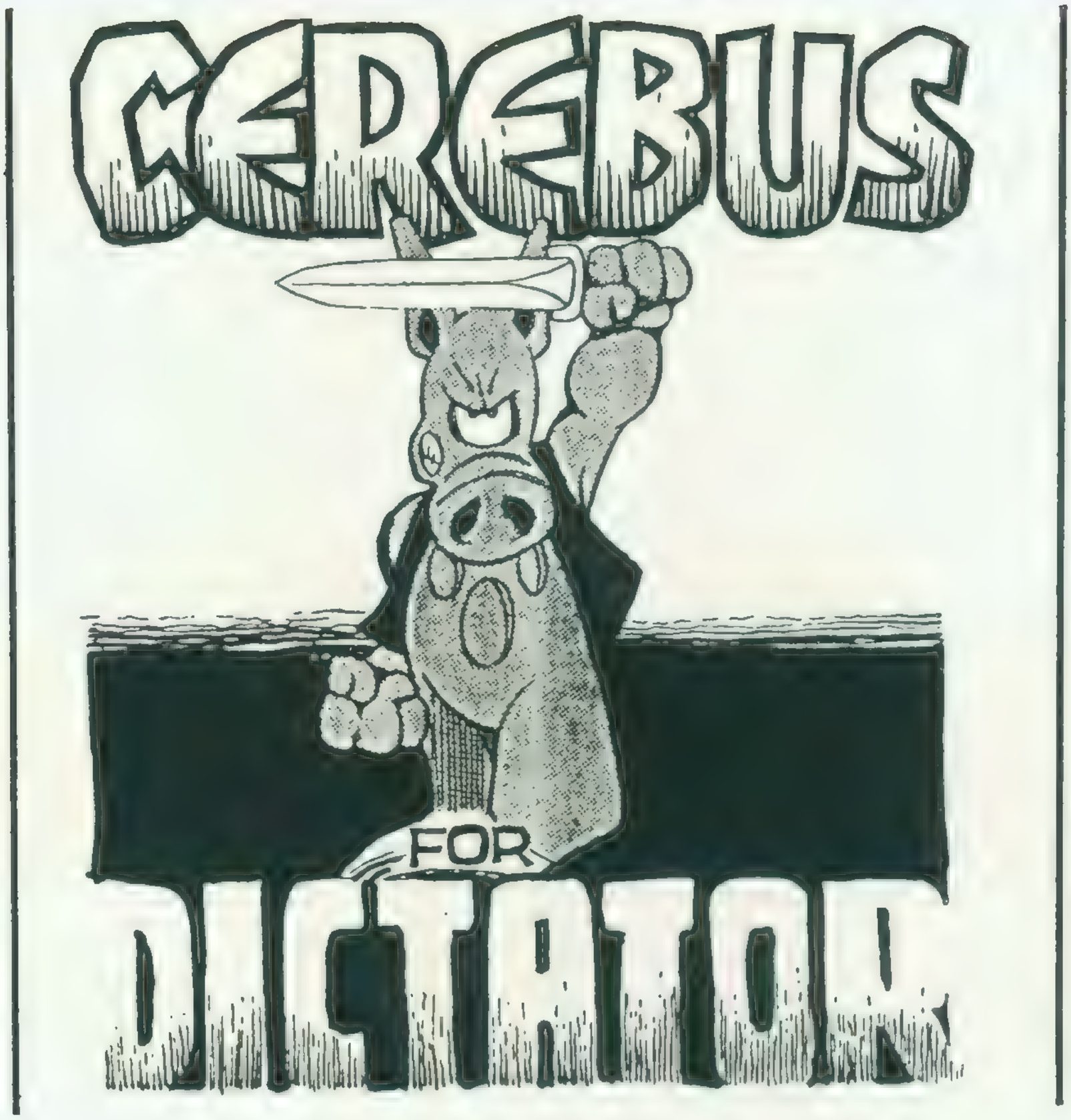
"We found out about that in October and we want some of the royalties," Sim said.

"Owing to excessive duties on textiles, we attempted to do our own version of the CEREBUS FOR DICTATOR t-shirt here in Canada. The only way to get a per unit cost that would allow us to sell them for the (then) reasonable price of $8.95 was to do a minimum order of 10 dozen shirts. This was extremely unlikely but was the only way to answer the complaints from Canadian retailers, so that's the discount break that we offered. And that put an end to the complaints."

- Dave Sim



The T-shirt that rocked the U.S. is back in Canada, and in time for Christmas. Don't delay, order now or be left out! This will be the only printing done until next spring (unless you ask us real nicely, of course).
The T-shirt comes in blue, with the art printed black in S, M, L, and XL, and retails for $8.95 each.

Distributors:

Discount breaks are as follows:

2-10 dozen shirts.....$5.25 each
10-50 dozen shirts .....$5.00 each

For larger orders than 50 dozen, please contact me at (519) 576-0610.

"I still get letters like this from time to time. Always glad to authenticate/not authenticate and send them right back."

- Dave Sim

1711 Armour Lane
Redondo Beach, California 90278
July 7, 1982

Dear Dave,

I recently bought a Cerebus #1. It's not in the greatest condition, but because of the news I've been hearing about counterfeit copies, I would deeply appreciate it if you could attest to its authenticity.

After I here word of your approval, I will be sending my copy to you(postpaid) so that you can write somewhere on the book(preferable on the LoC)saying something to the effect that it is an authentic copy. I want to avoid any problems about its authenticity in the future. Thank you.

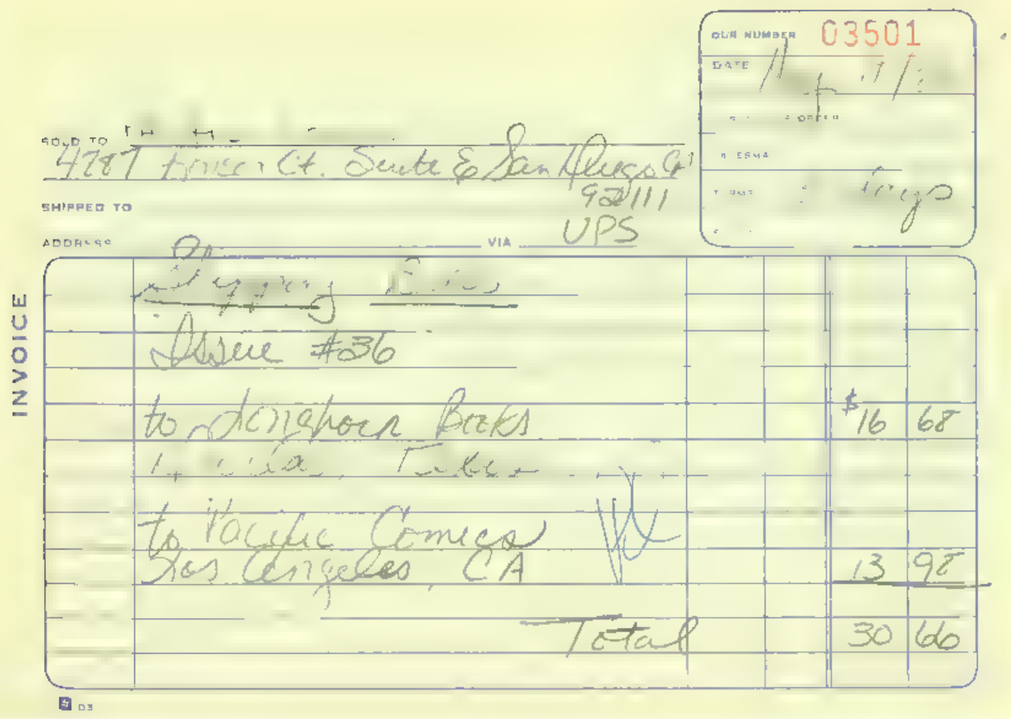
Yours truly,

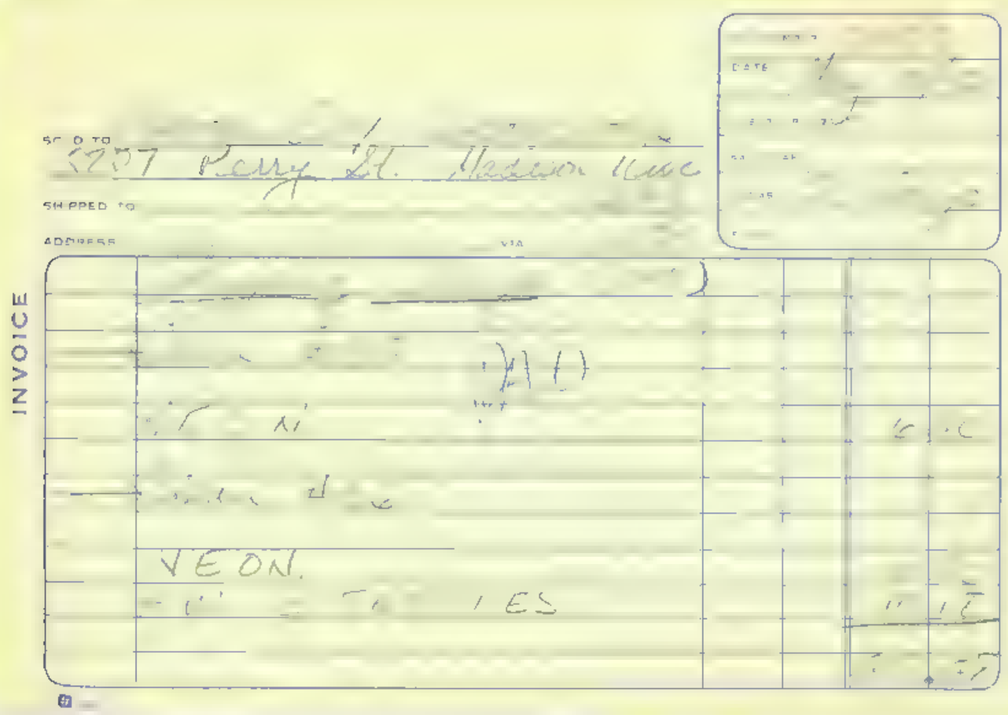
David Holliday

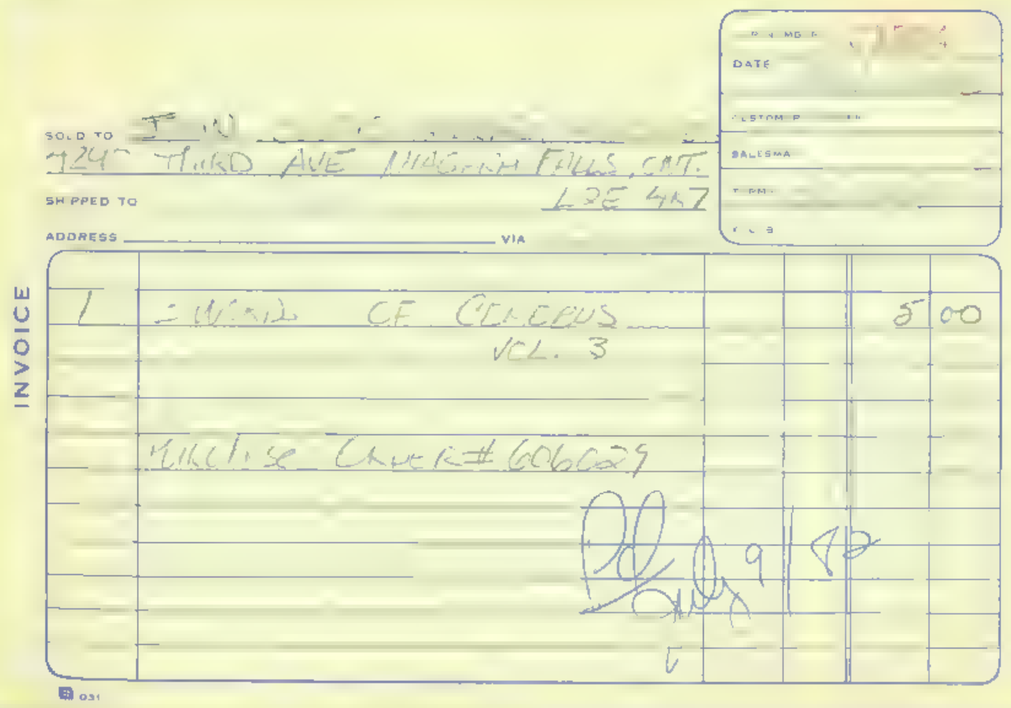
David Holliday

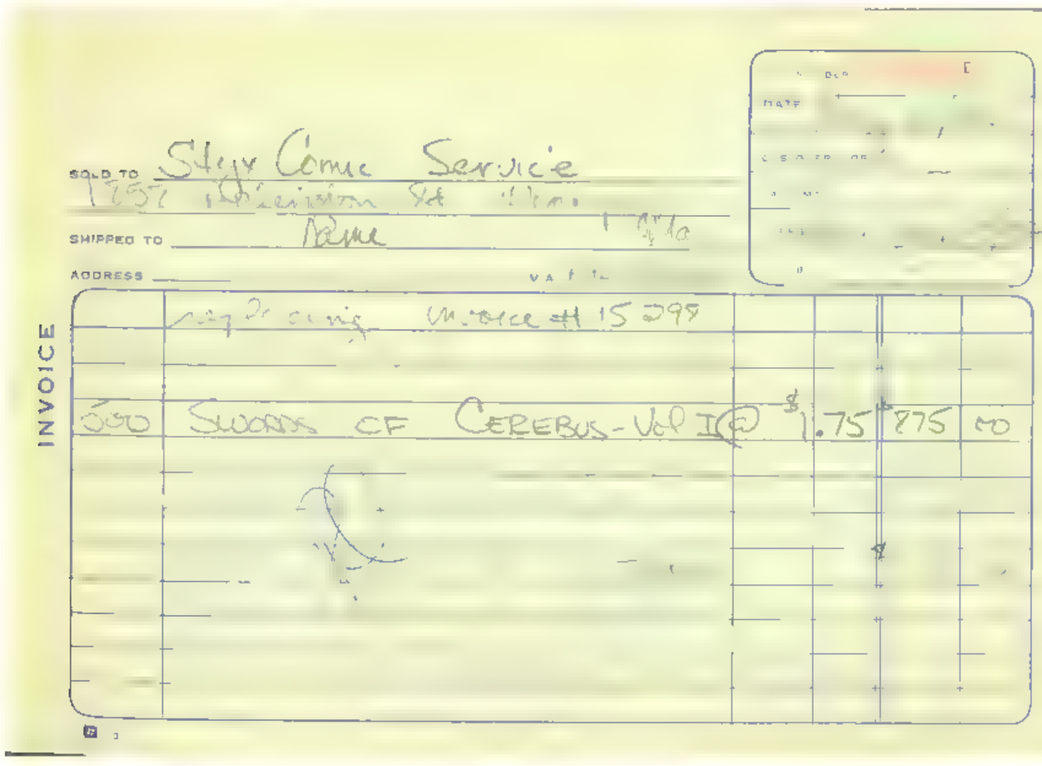
"Deni's invoice book June 3, 1982 to August 3, 1982."

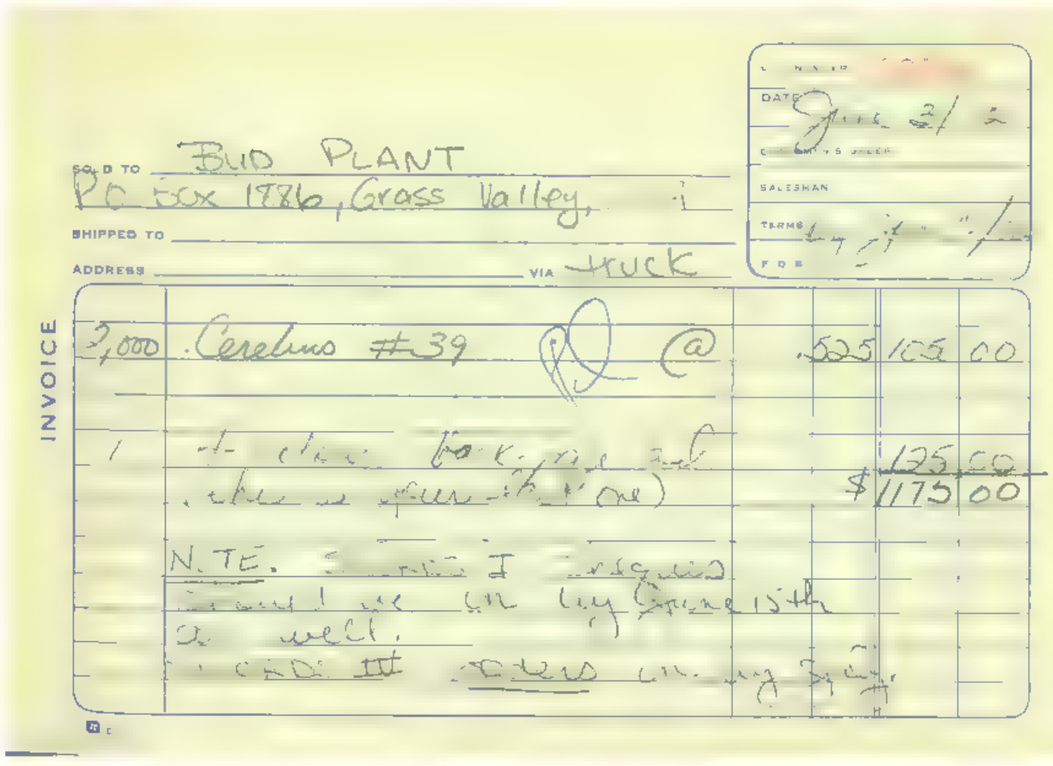
- Dave Sim

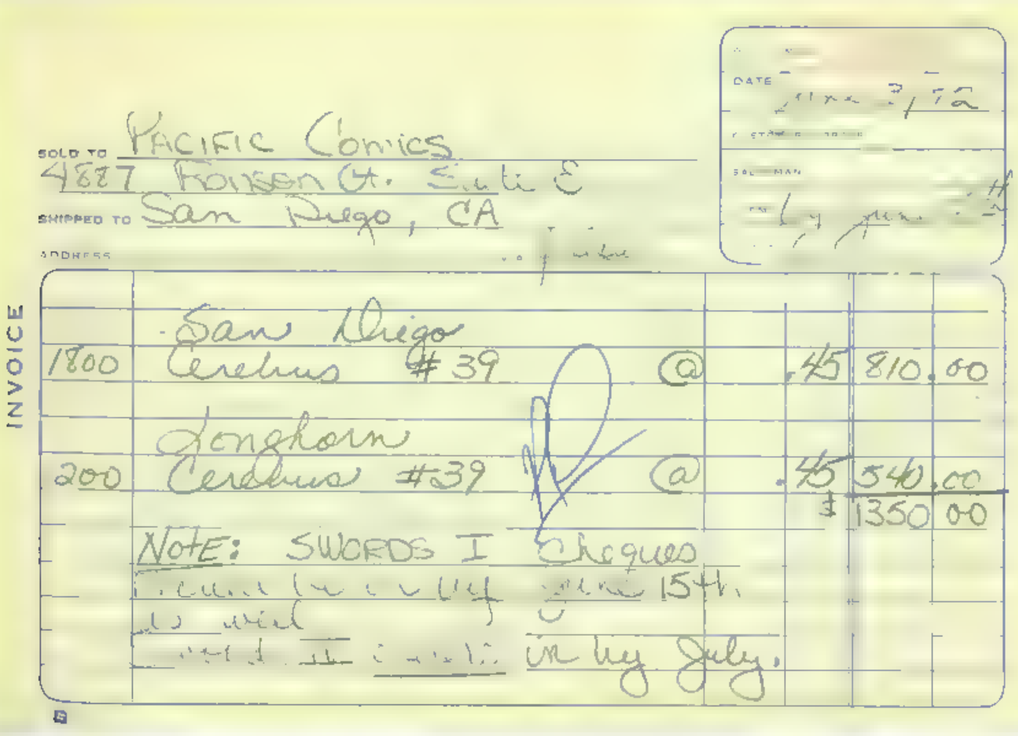


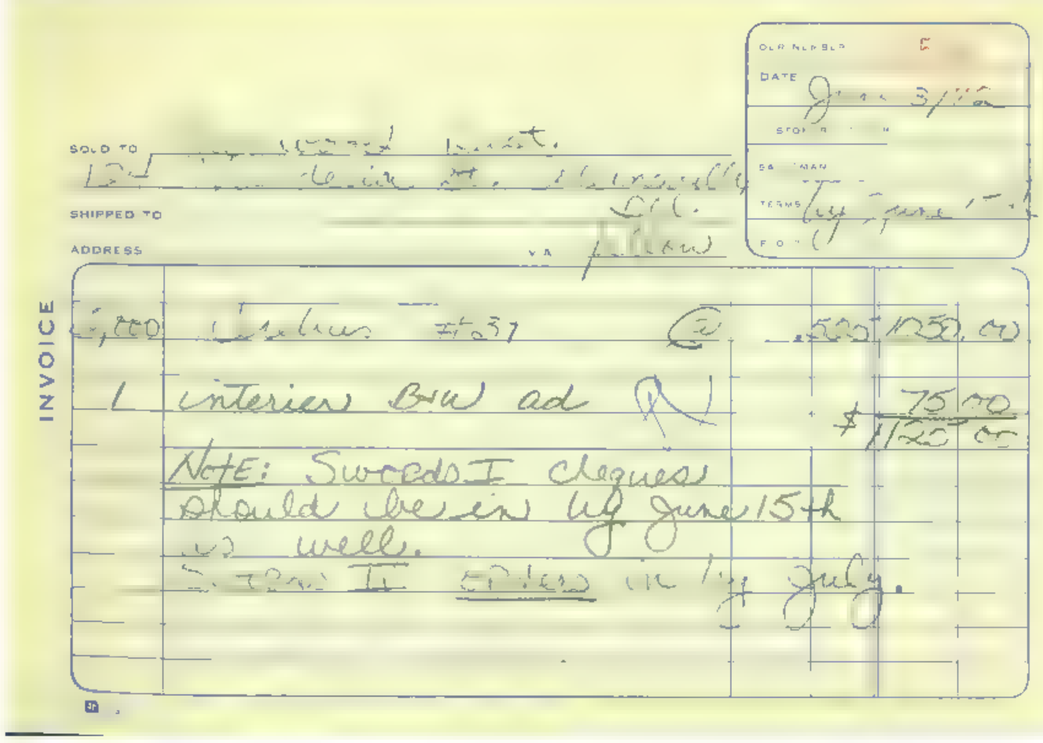


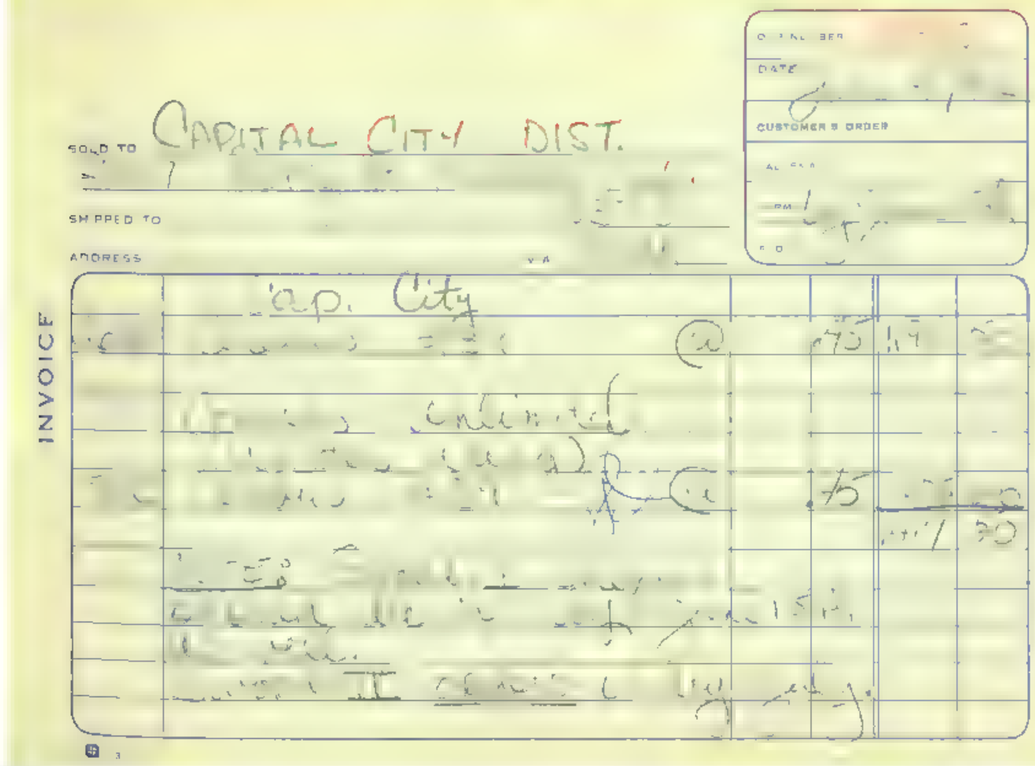







INVOICE
DATE June 7/82
SOLD TO PACIFIC Comics
4814 Fresen Ct. Suite E
SHIPPED TO San Diego, CA
ADDRESS
San Diego
1800 Cerebus #39 @ .45 810.00
Longhorn
200 Cerebus #39 @ .45 540.00
$1350 00
NOTE: SWORDS I Cheques should be in by June 15th. as well.
Swords II orders in by July.




SOLD TO Capital City Dist.
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Cap. City
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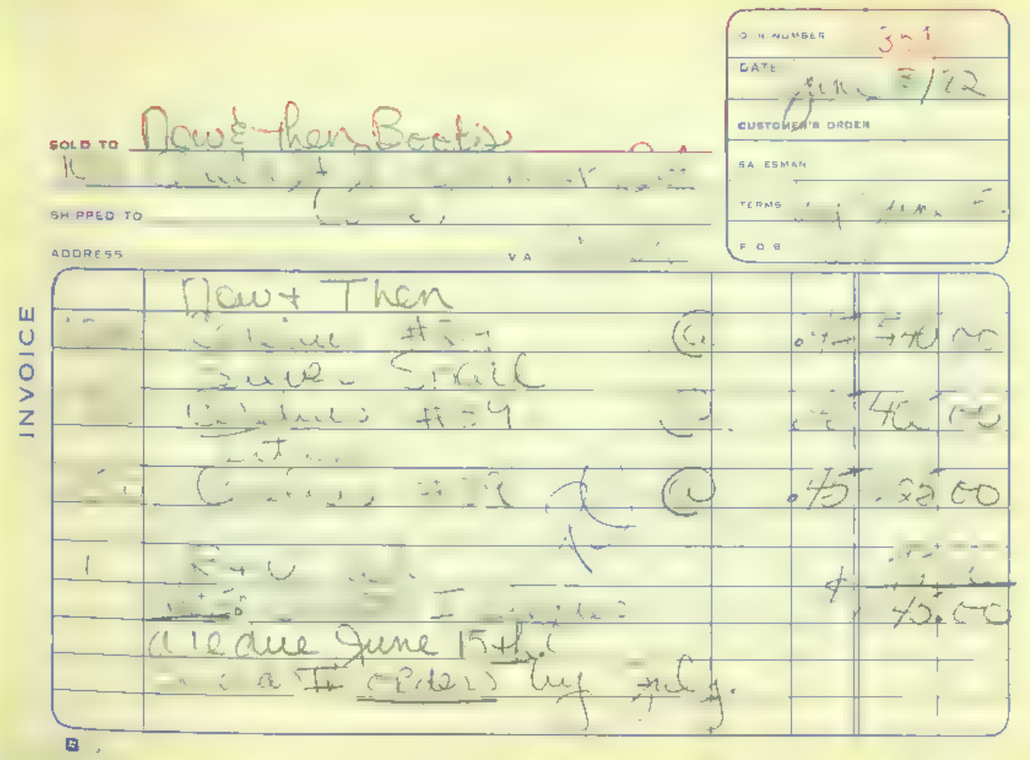
SOLD TO Now & Then Books
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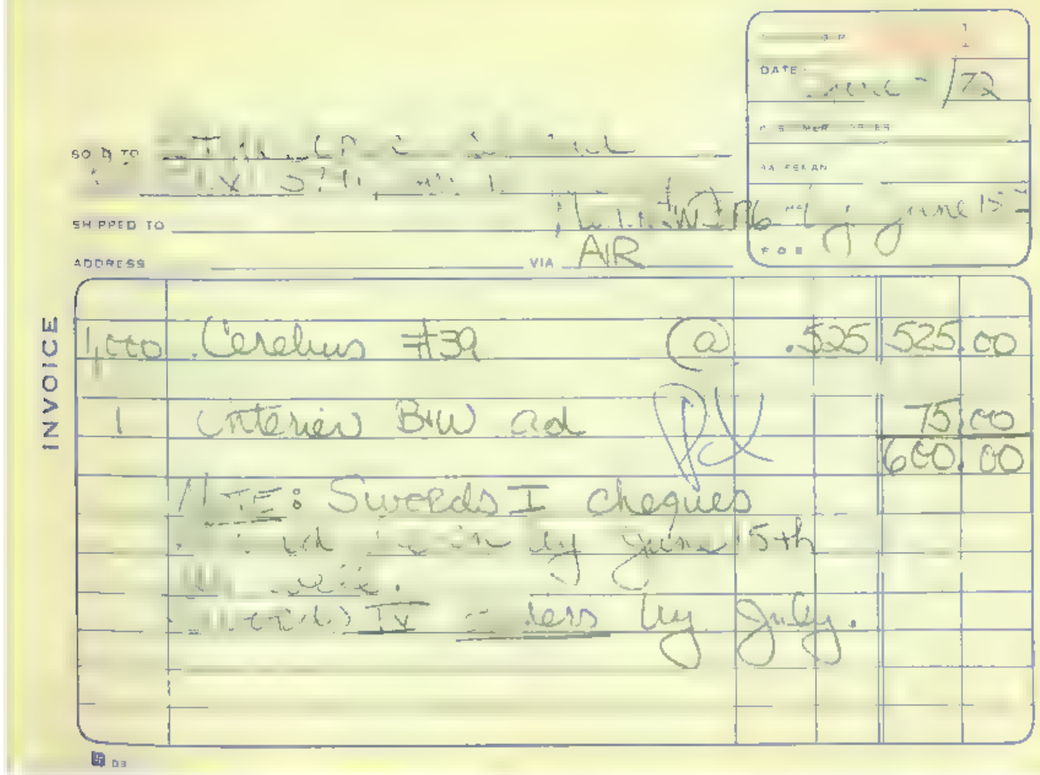
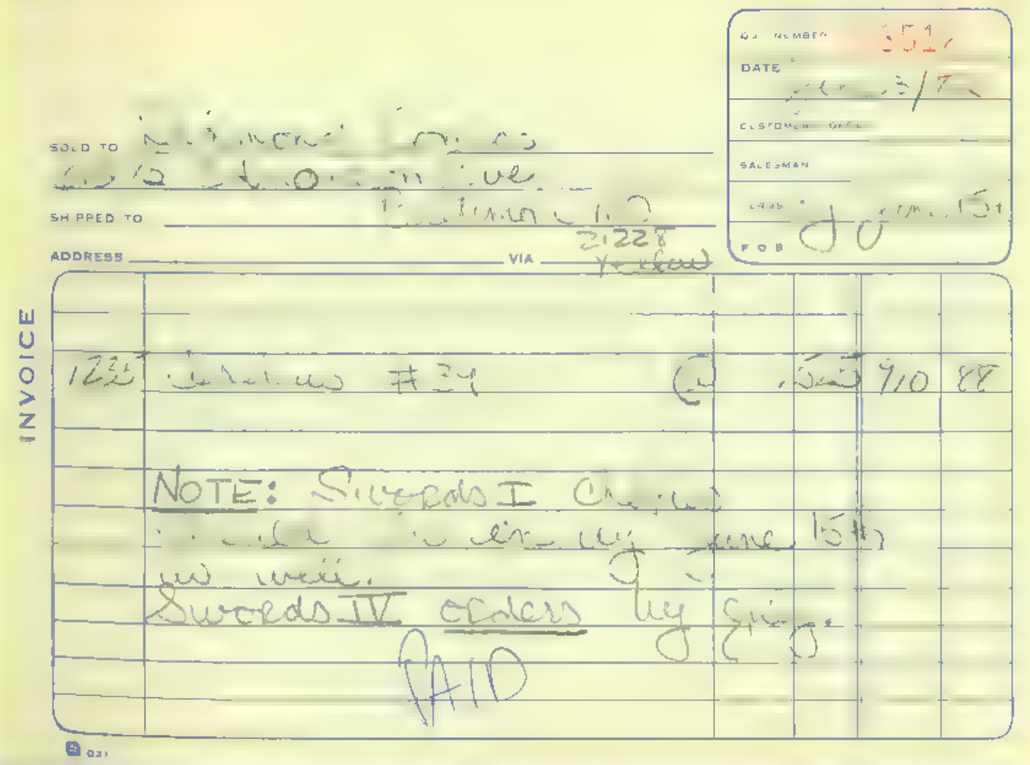
Now & Then
Due June 15th


SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA AIR
DATE
INVOICE
1,000 Cerebus #39 @ .525 525.00
1 Interview B&W ad 75.00
600.00
NOTE: Sweeds I cheques
Sweeds IV orders by July.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NOTE: Sweeds I
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SOLD TO Silver Snail
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Cerebus #37
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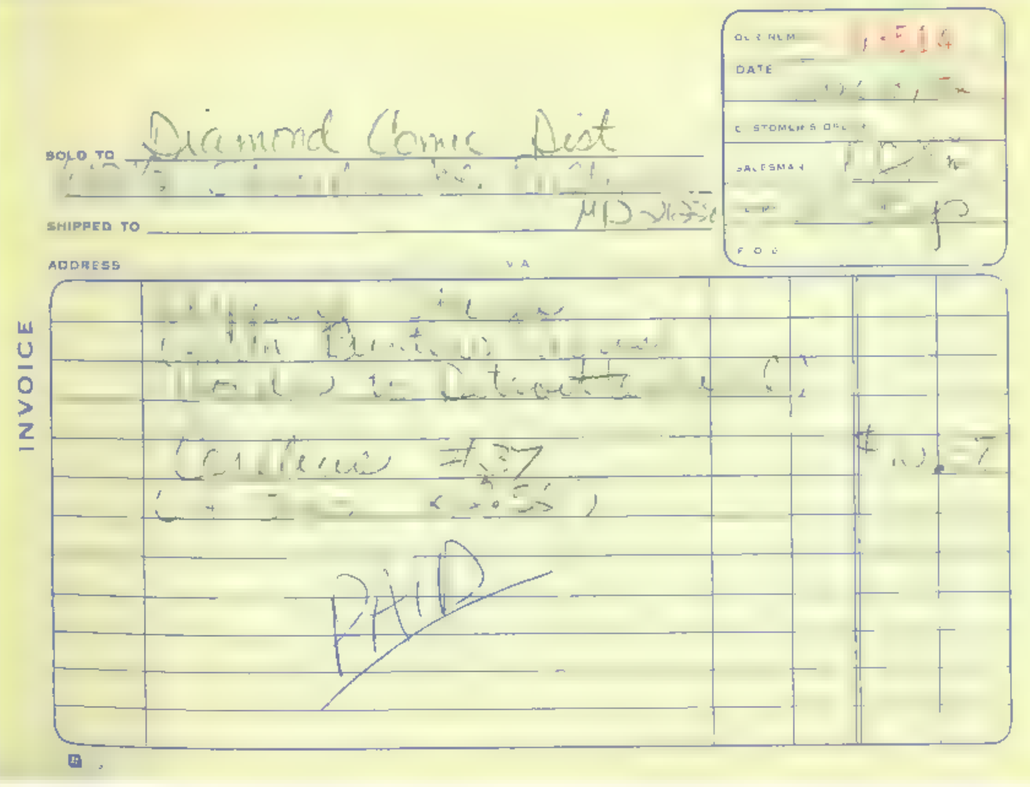
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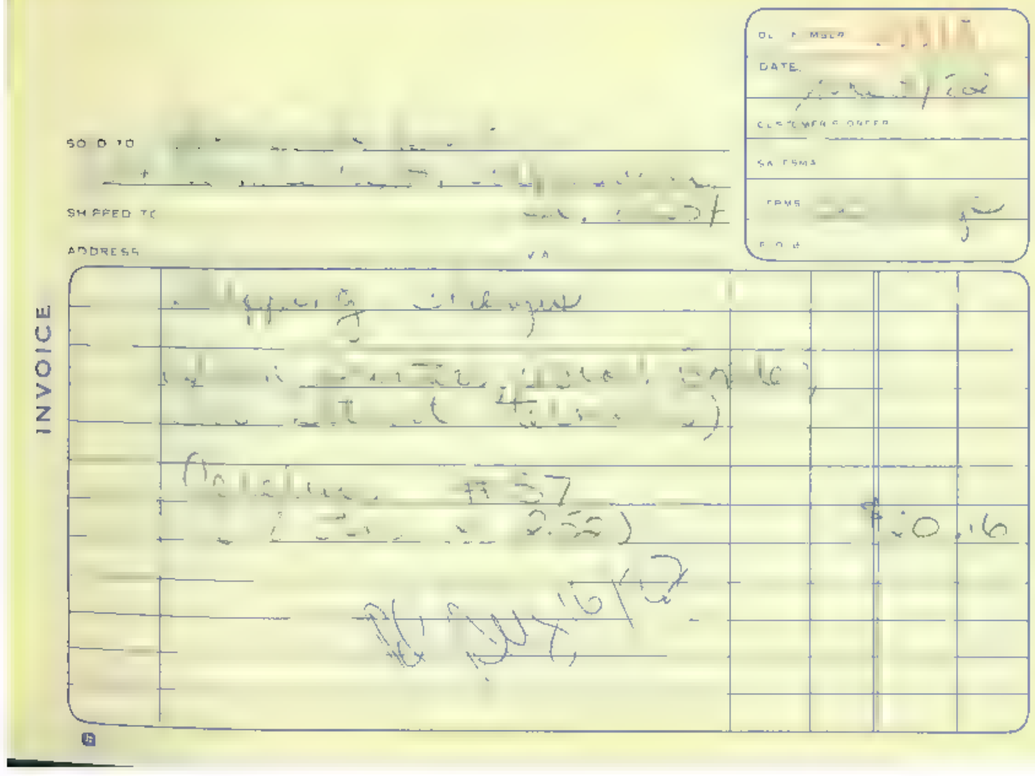
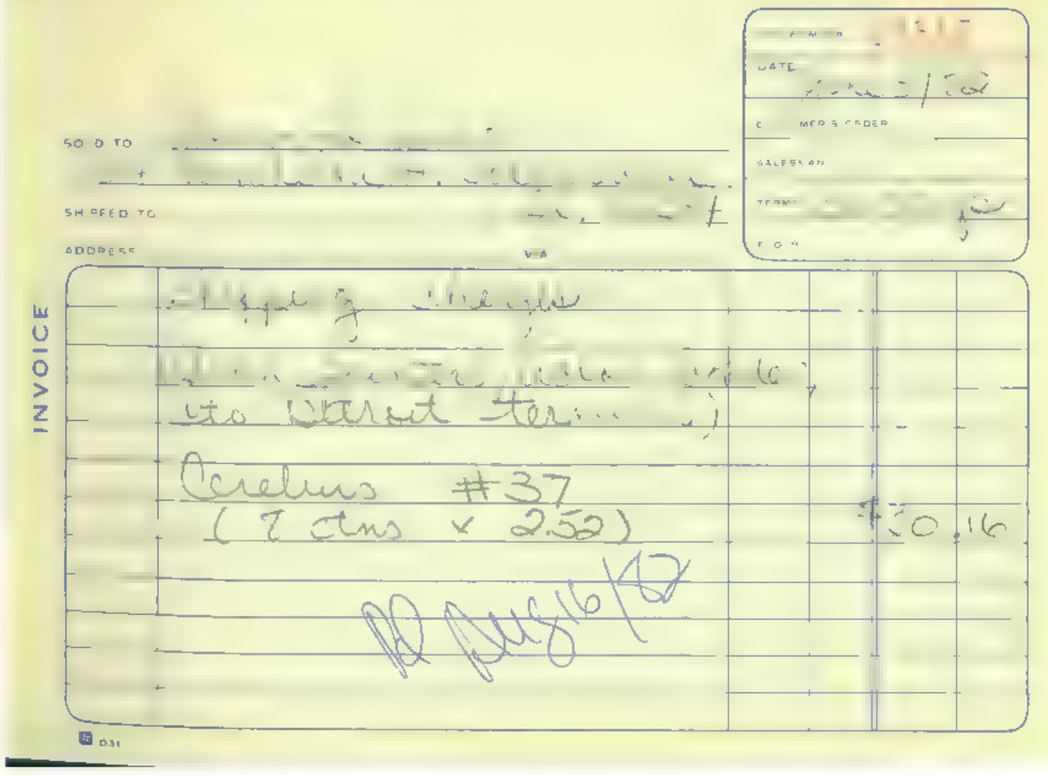
VIA
INVOICE
Cerebus #37
PAID


SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
INVOICE
Cerebus #37
(7 ctns x 2.52)
$10.16


SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
INVOICE
Cerebus #37
(7 ctns x 2.52)
$10.16

CEREBUS ARCHIVE

OUR NUMBER 03516
DATE Dec 3/82
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS 30 days
F O B

SOLD TO Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1708, Grass Valley, CA 95945
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA

INVOICE

	Shipping charges				
	(from printer, across border,				
	to Detroit, Michigan)				
	Cerebus #37				
	(1 ctn. x 52.92)			$	52.92

D31

PAID

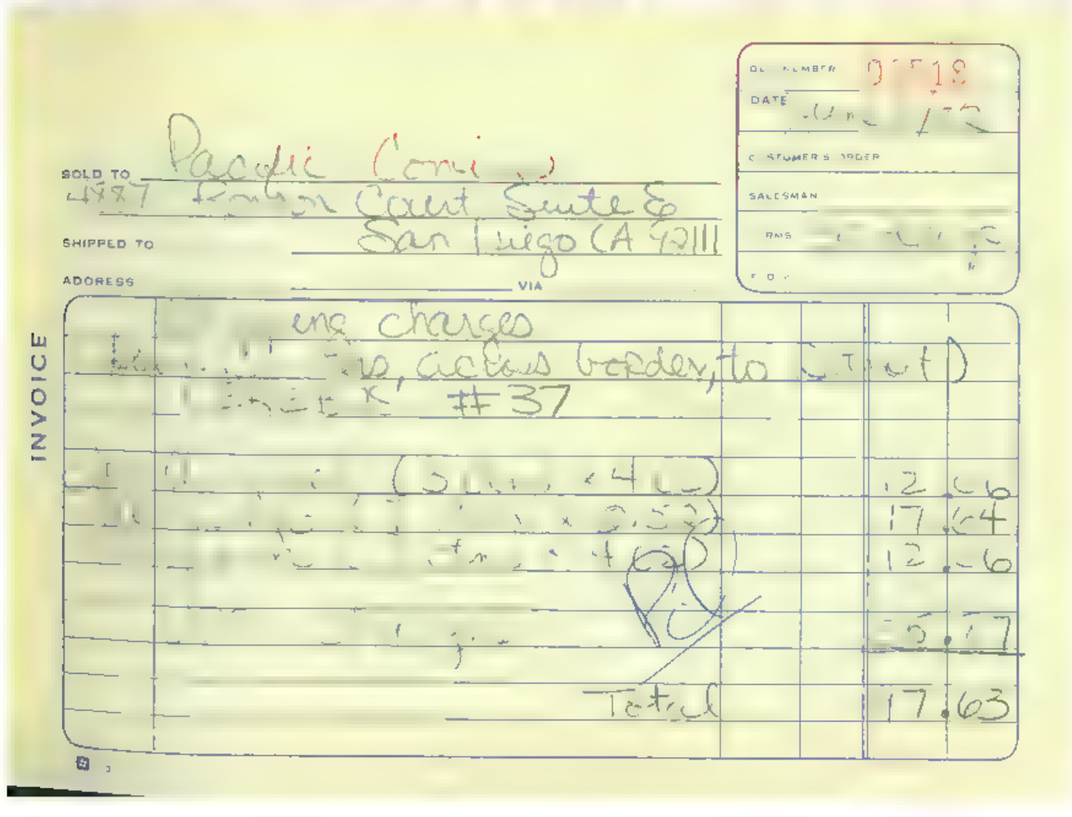
OUR NUMBER 03517
DATE Dec 3/82
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS Immediately
F O B

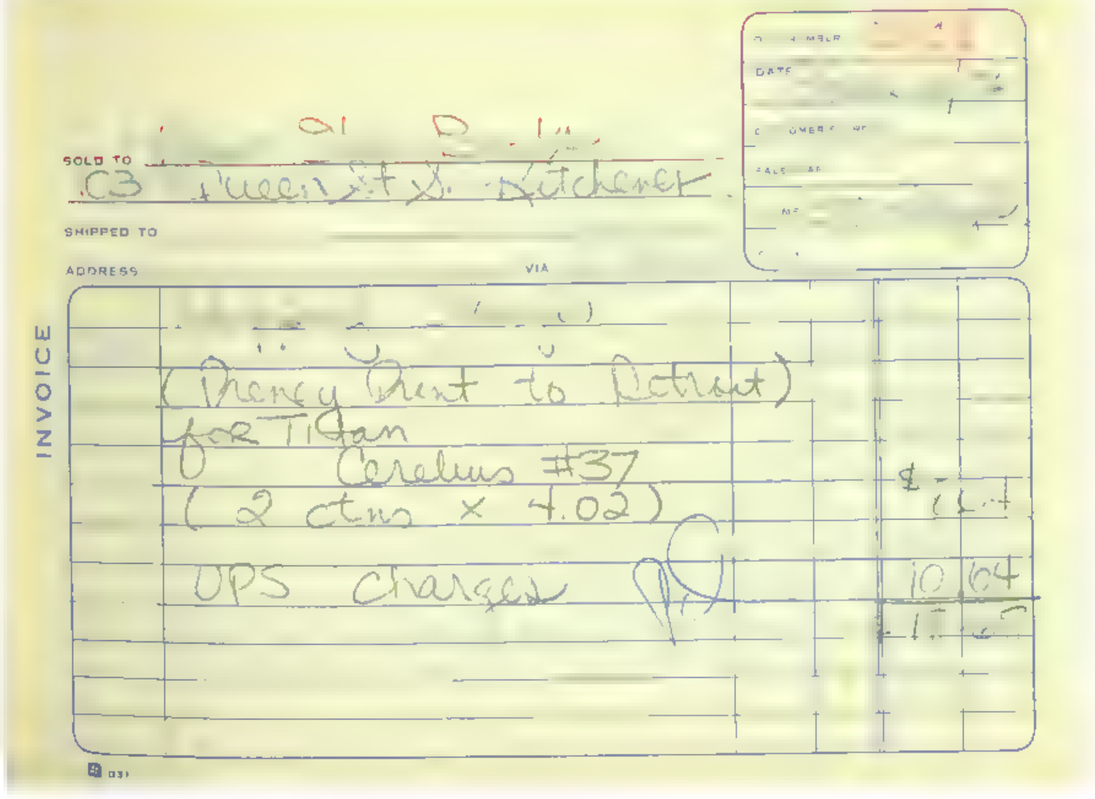
SOLD TO Capital City Ent.
8127 Bury St. Pleasant, Ohio.
SHIPPED TO 5373
ADDRESS VIA

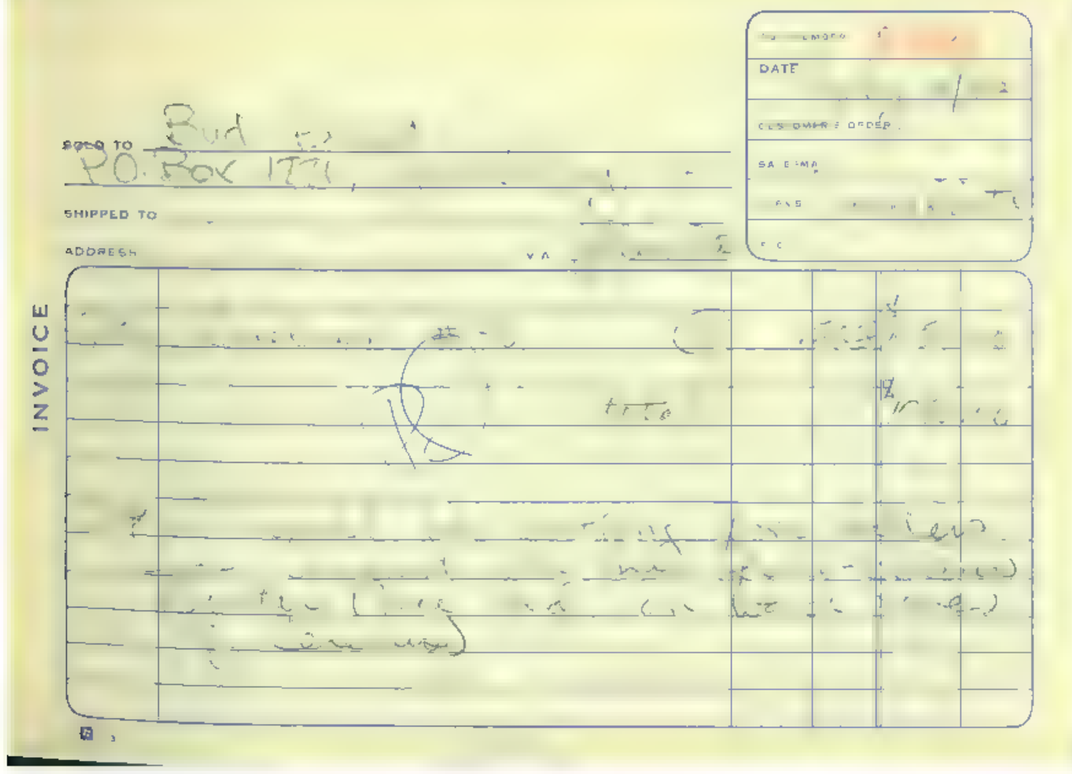
INVOICE

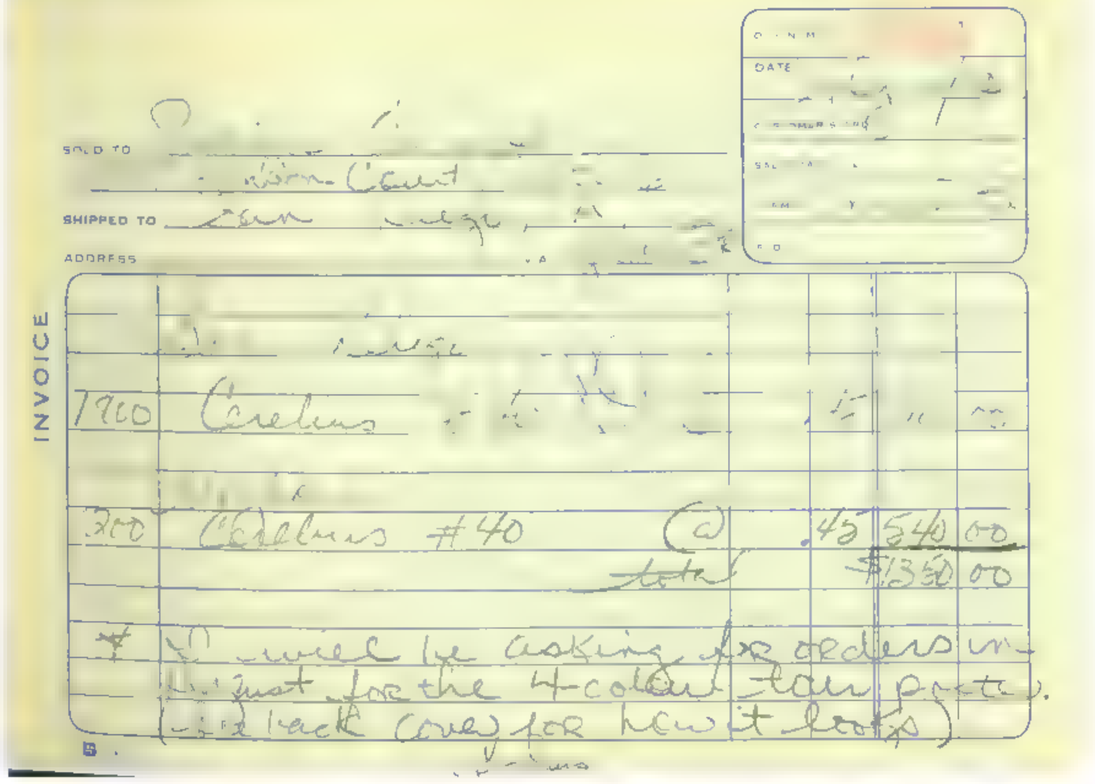
	Shipping charges				
	(from Bud Plant, across border,				
	to Detroit, Michigan)				
	Cerebus #37				
	(17 ctns x 2.52) (cap.				42.84
	(2 ctns x 4.02) B.C.				8.04
	United Parcel Charges				
	Cerebus #37				10.64
	B.C. Enterprises			$	61.52

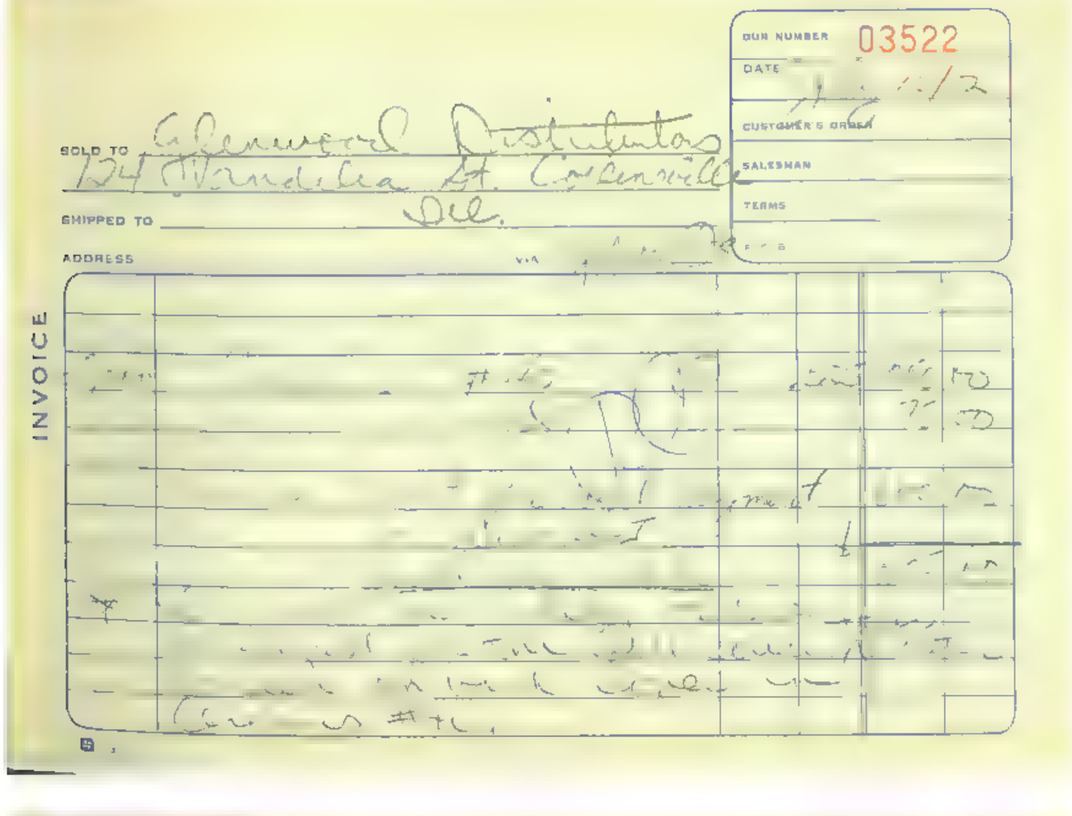
D31

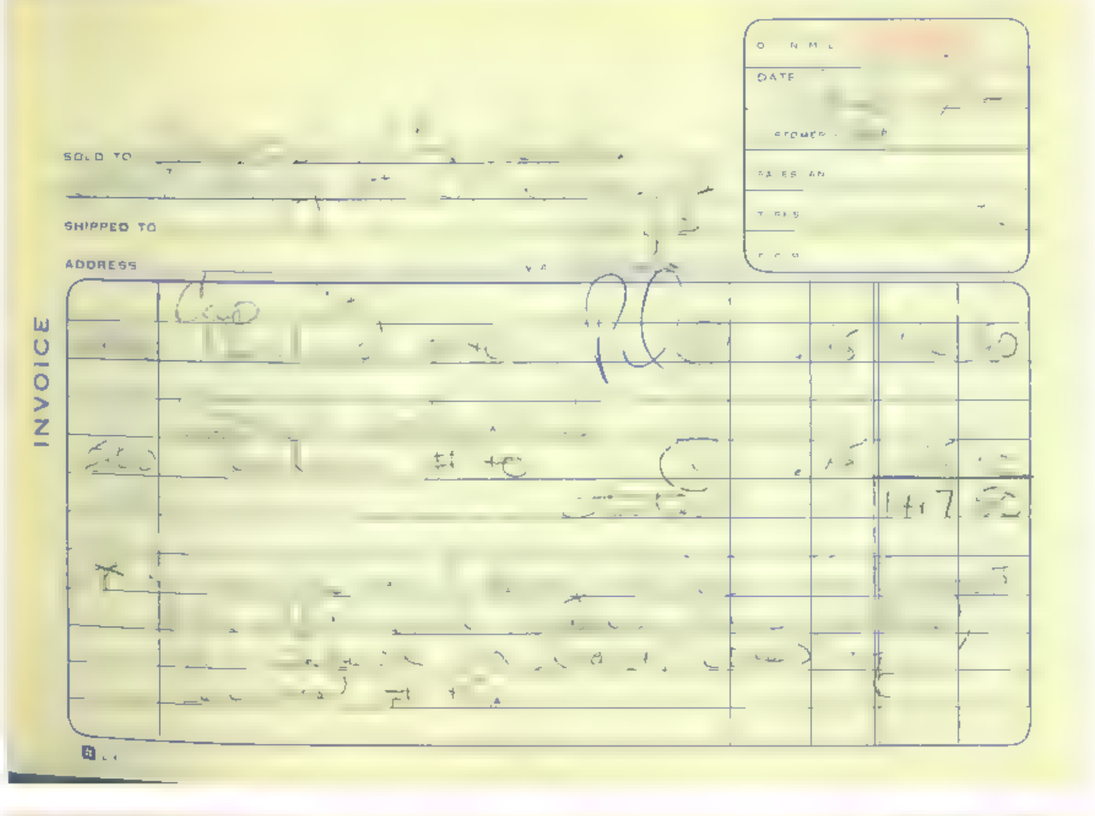

INVOICE
SOLD TO Pacific Comics
4287 Ronson Court Suite E
SHIPPED TO San Diego CA 92111
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F.O.B.
ing charges
#37
Total
12.46
17.64
12.-6
5.17
17.63

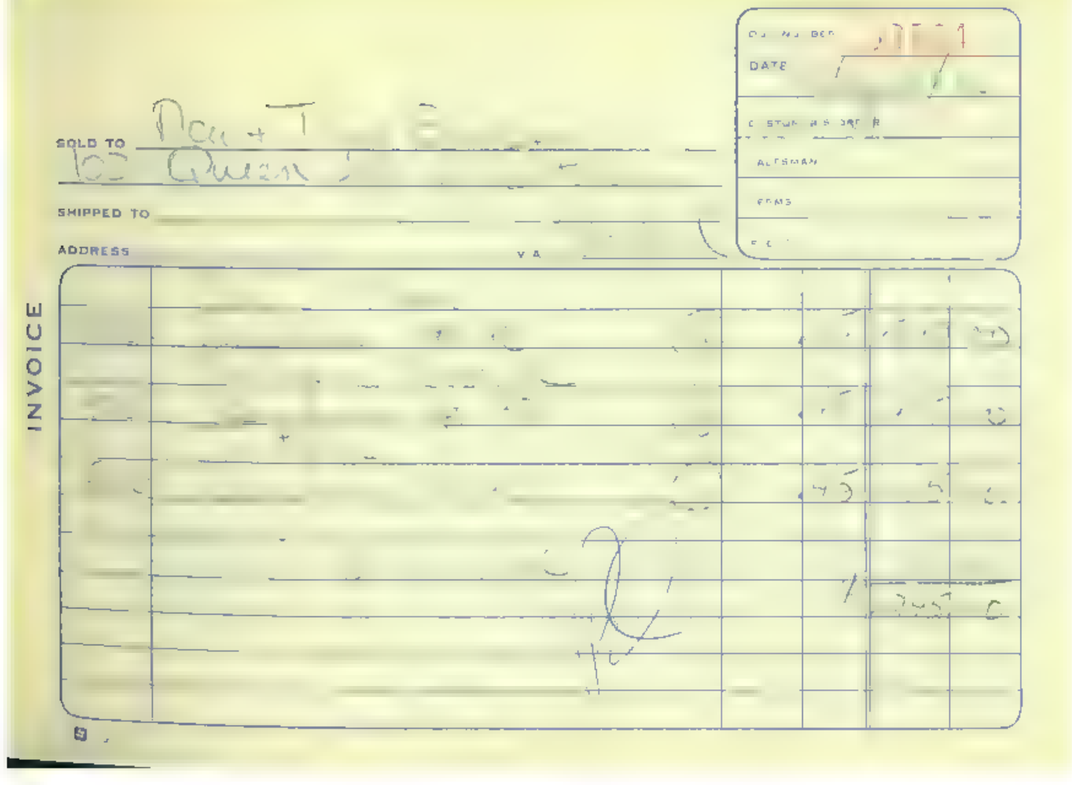

INVOICE
SOLD TO C3 Queen St S. Kitchener
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
(Money Sent to Detroit)
for Titan
Cerebus #37
(2 ctns x 4.02)
UPS charges
10 64

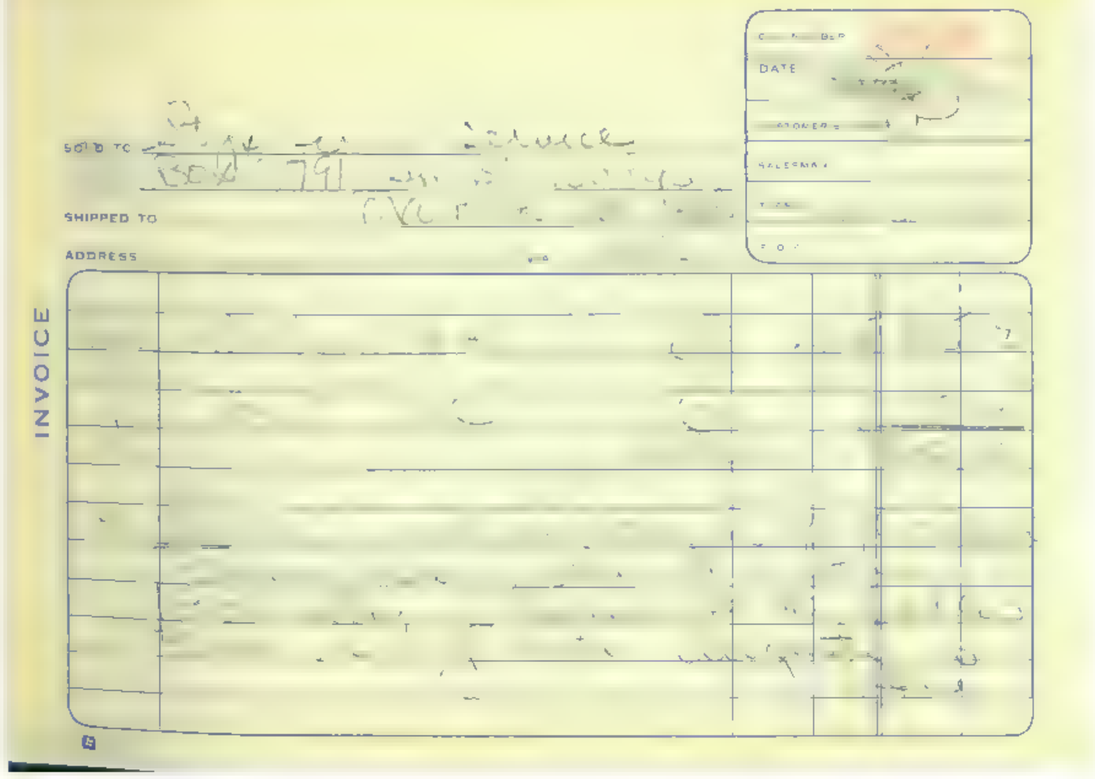

INVOICE
SOLD TO Bud
P.O. Box 1171
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F.O.B.

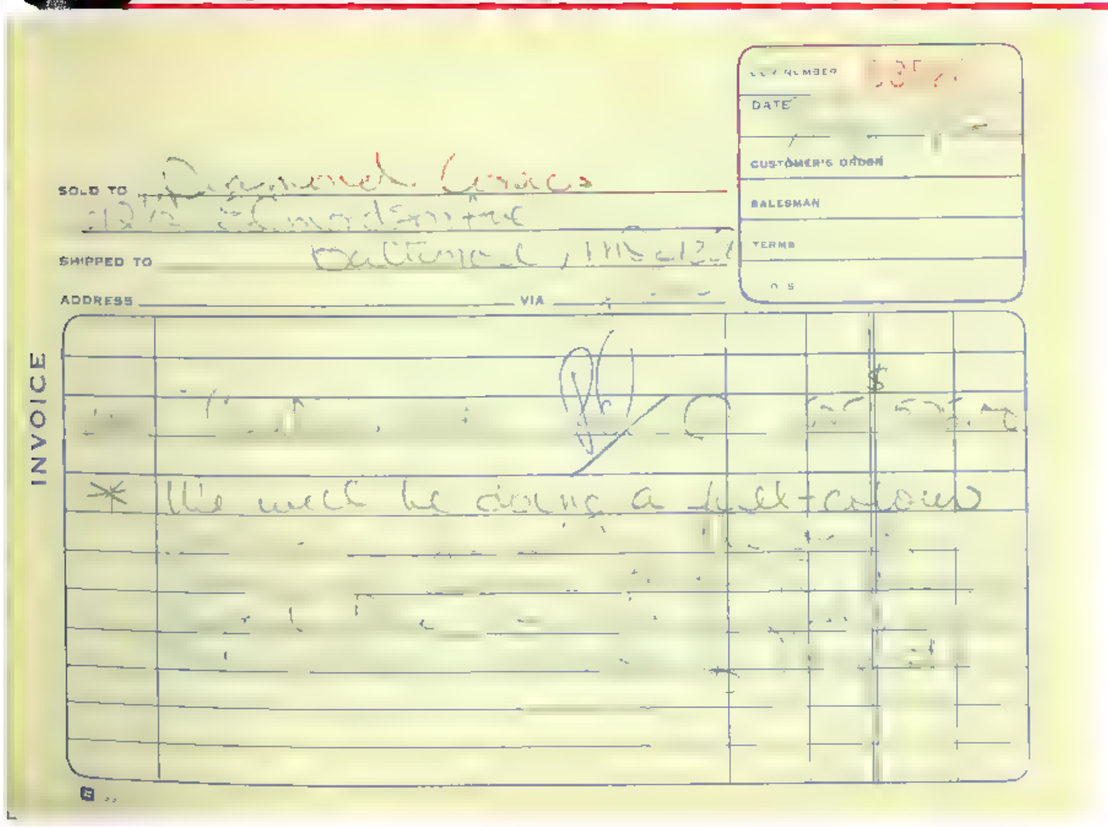

INVOICE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
100 Cerebus
200 Cerebus #40 @ .45 540 00
total $1350 00
* We will be asking for orders in just for the 4-colour four parter. (+ a back cover for how it looks)

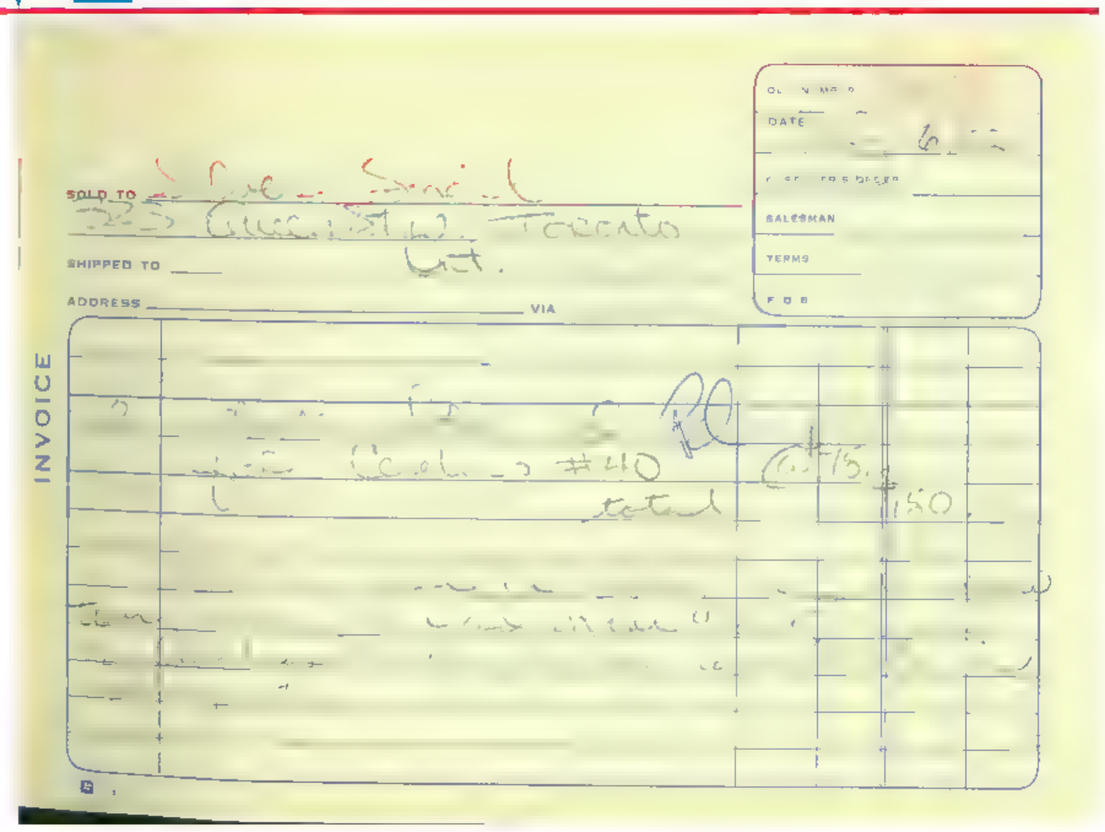

INVOICE
SOLD TO Glenwood Distributors
124 Wandelia St. Carneville
Del.
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
OUR NUMBER 03522
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F.O.B.

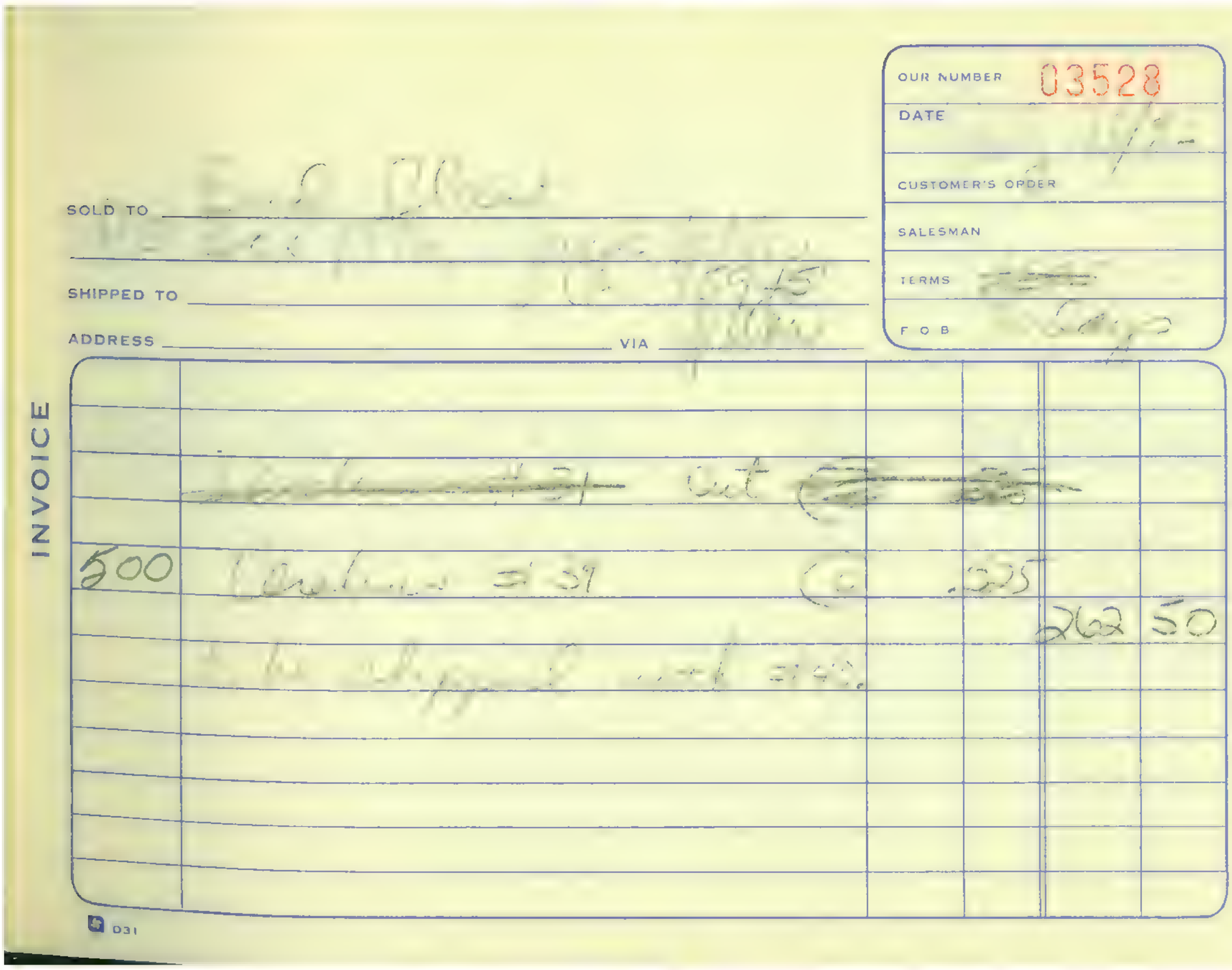

INVOICE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
SALESMAN
TERMS
F.O.B.
17.-2

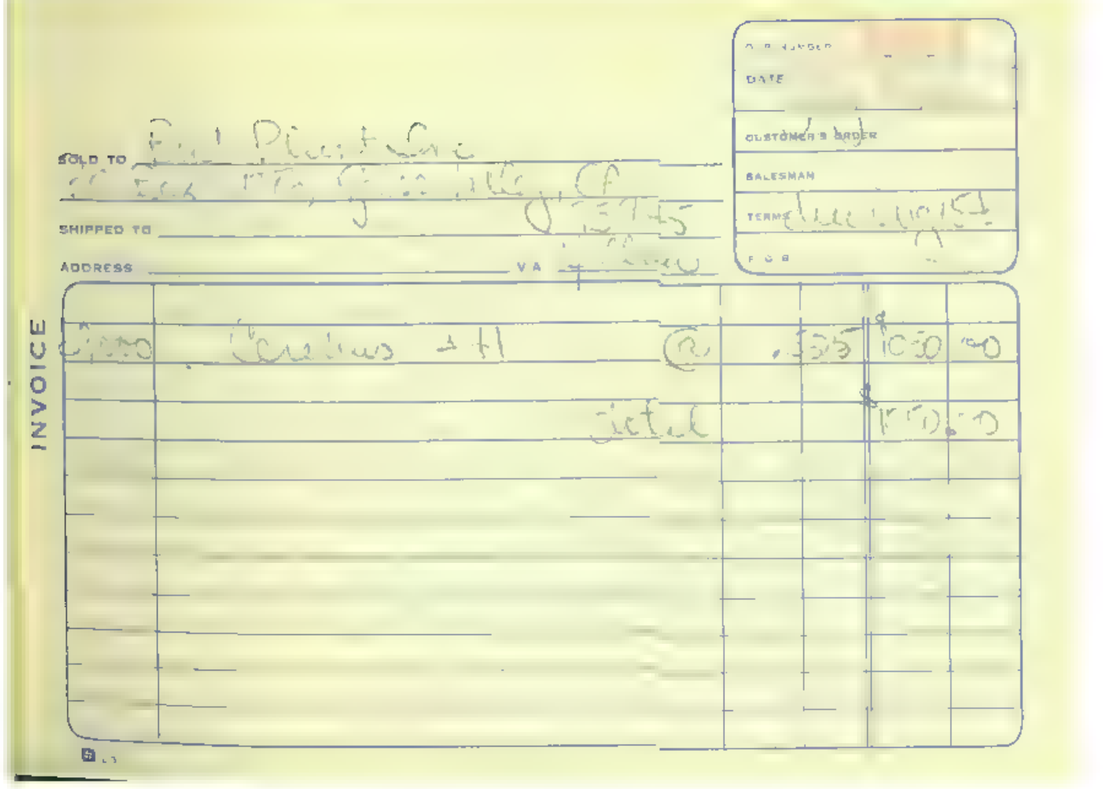

INVOICE
SOLD TO Dan T
Queen
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE

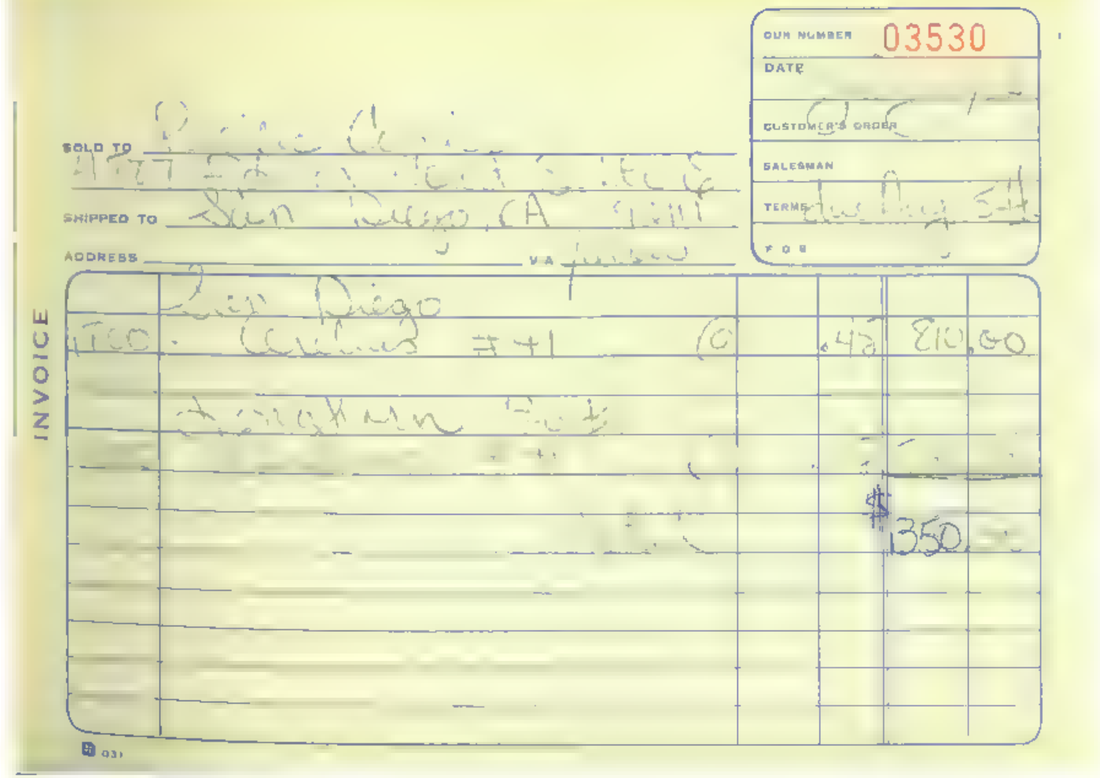

INVOICE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
DATE
SALESMAN
TERMS
F.O.B.

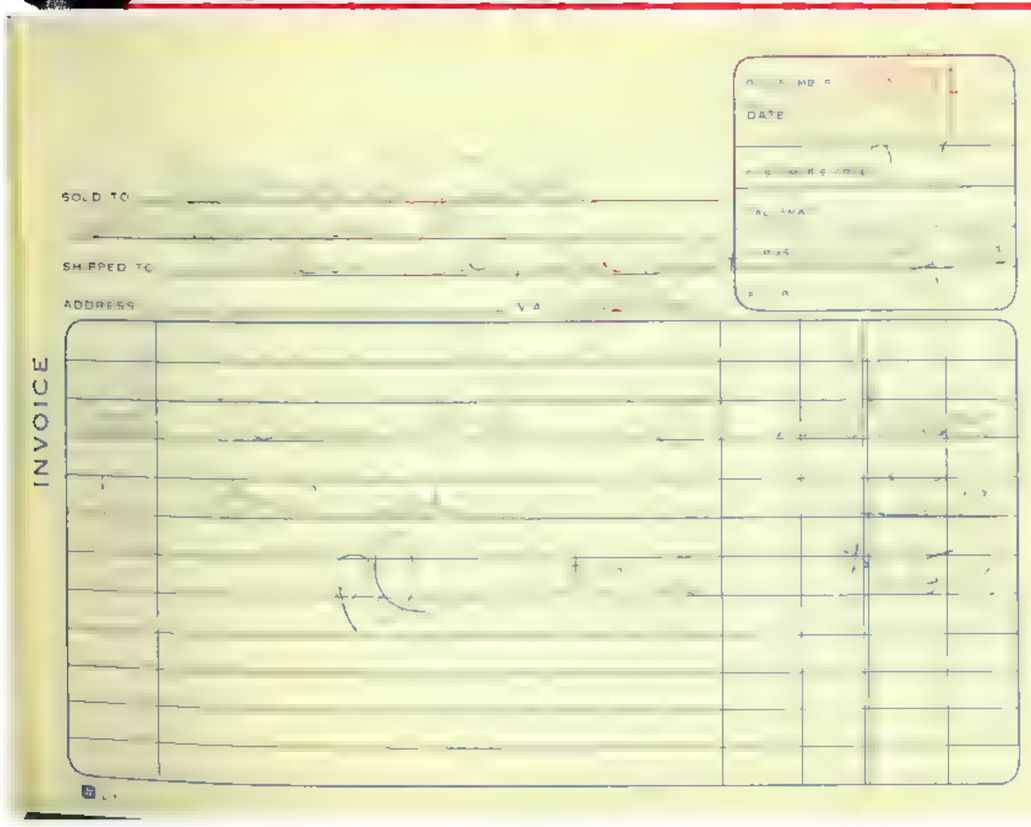

SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
INVOICE

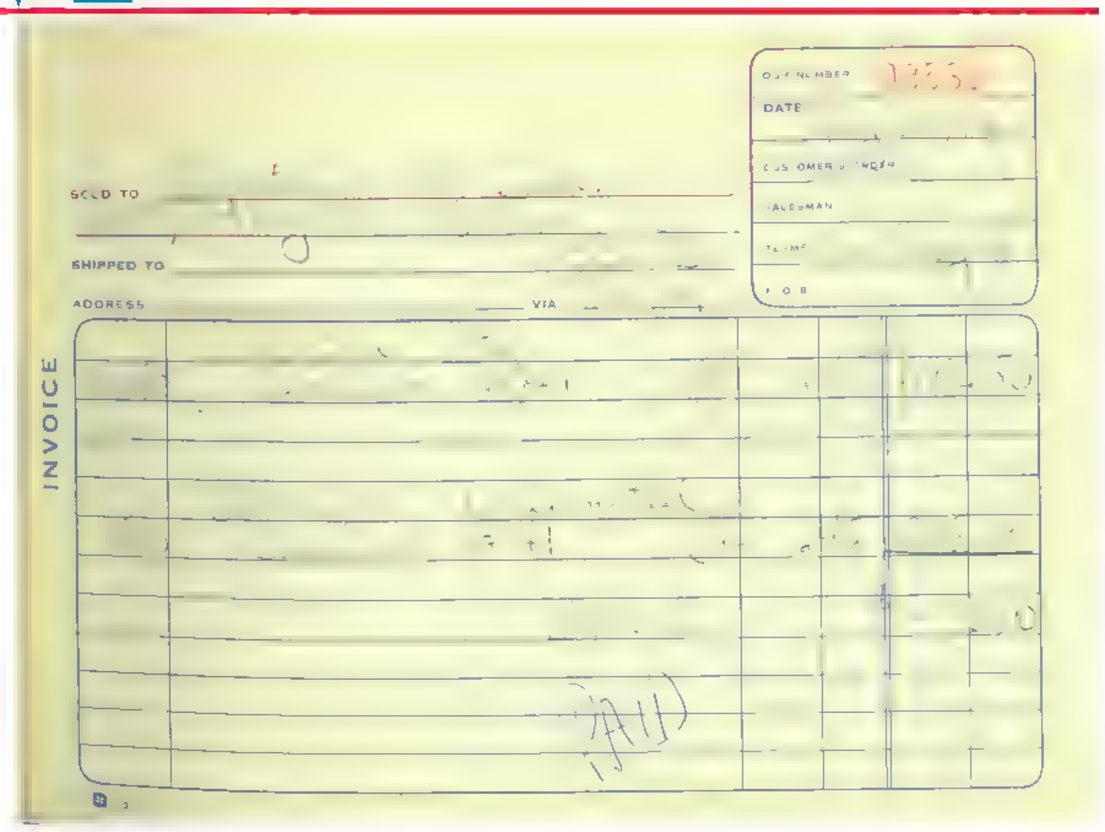

SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
INVOICE

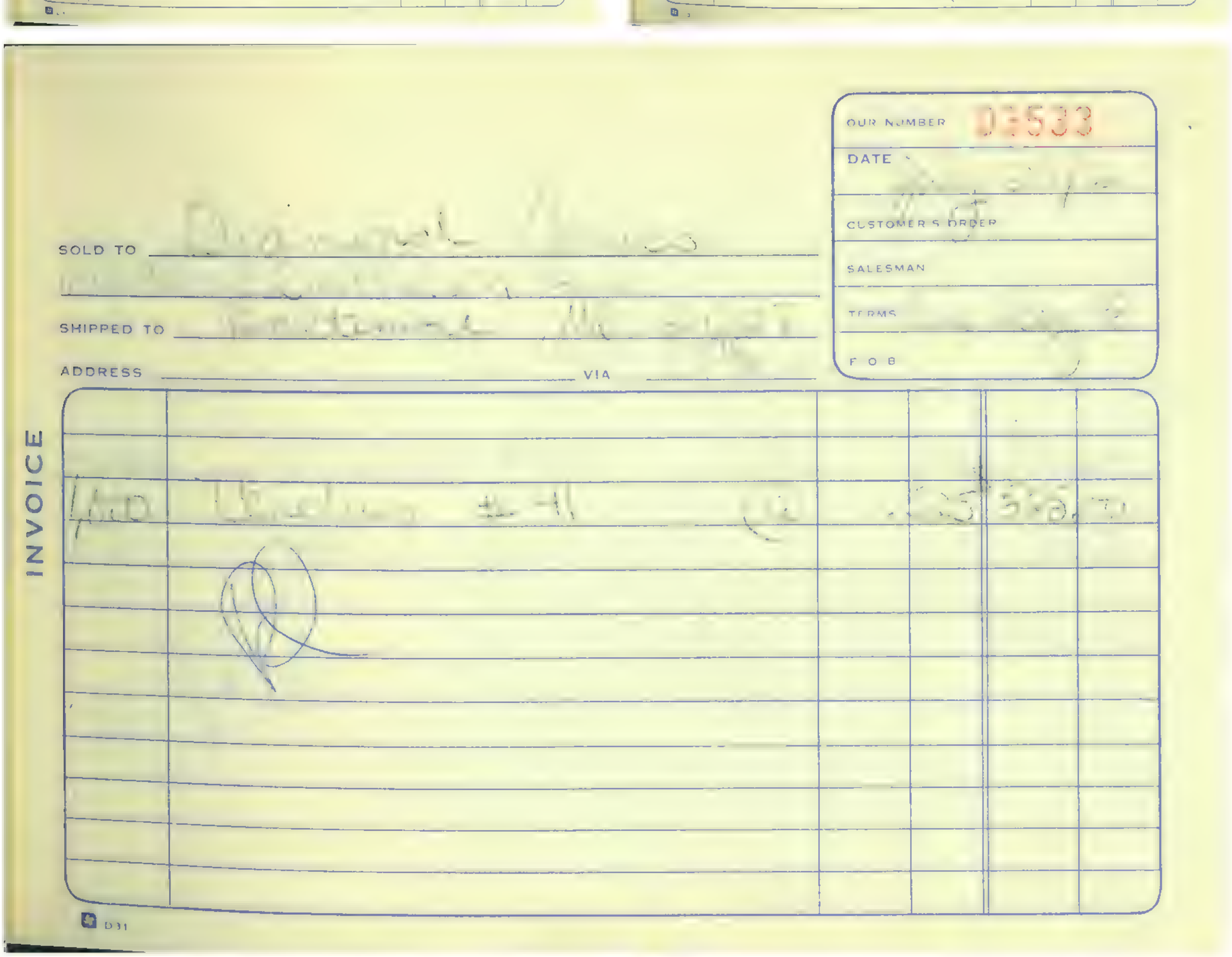

OUR NUMBER
03528
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE
500
031

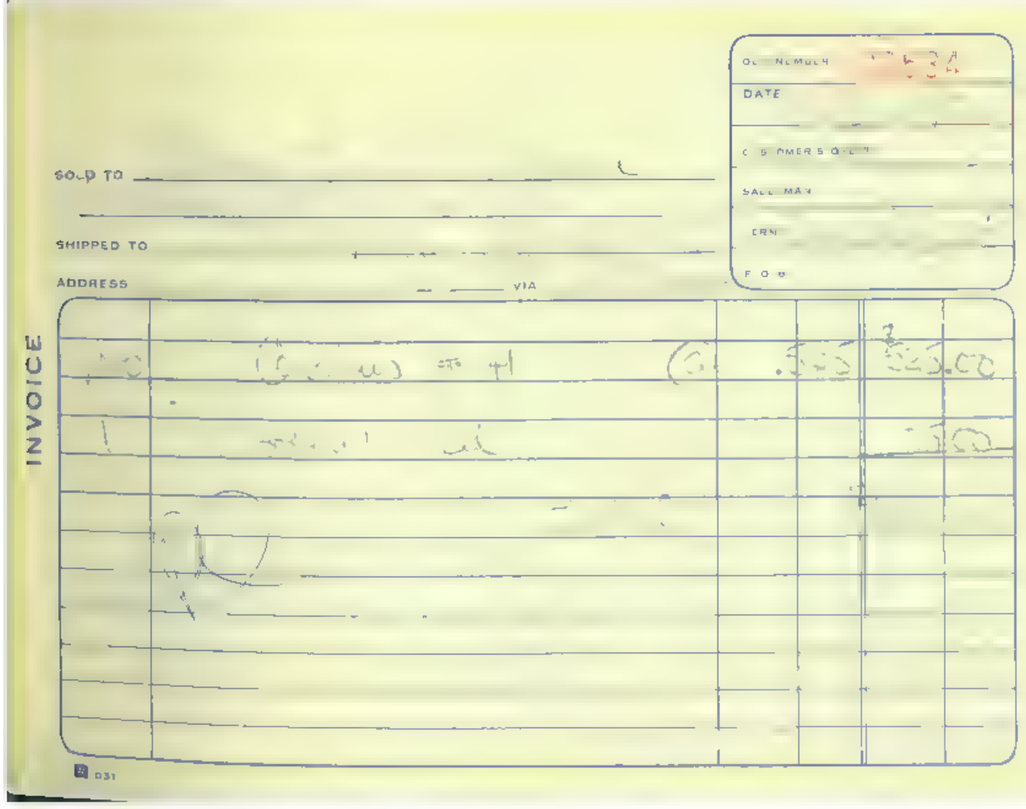

SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
INVOICE

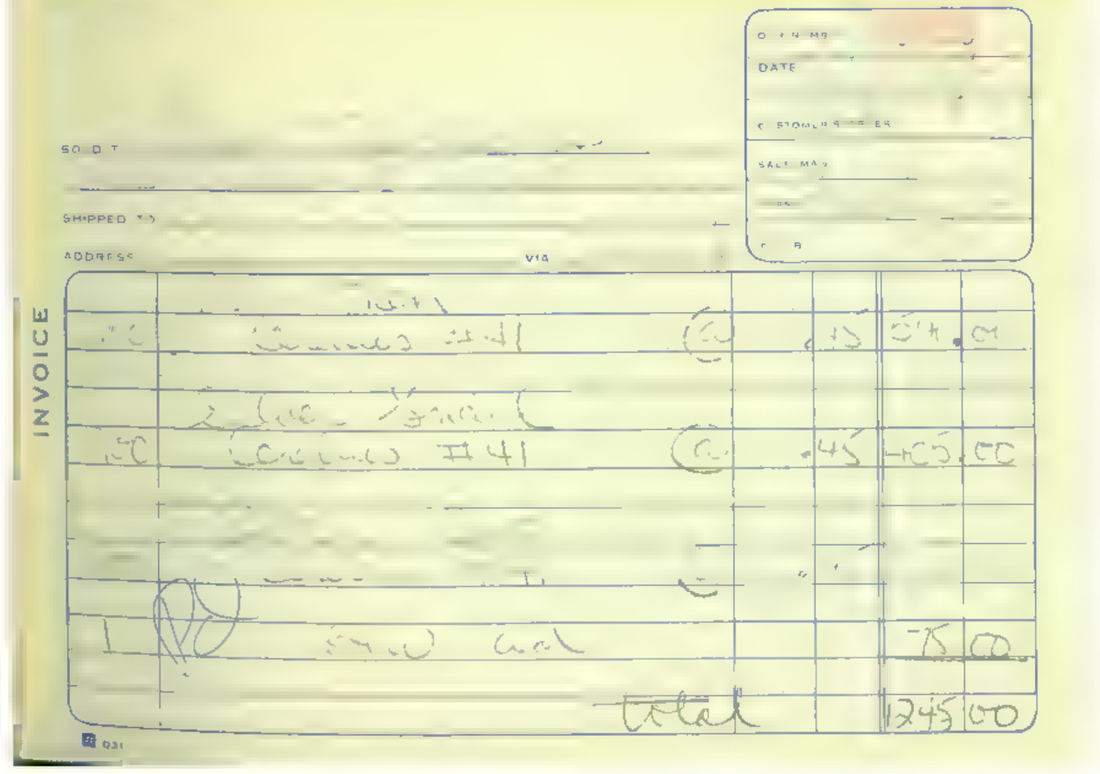

OUR NUMBER
03530
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE


DATE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
INVOICE


DATE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE


OUR NUMBER 0533
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE


DATE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE


DATE
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE

SOLD TO

SHIPPED TO

ADDRESS VIA

OUR NUMBER 03536

DATE

CUSTOMER'S ORDER

SALESMAN

TERMS

F O B

INVOICE

#41

20

D31

SOLD TO

SHIPPED TO

ADDRESS VIA

DATE 8

SALESMAN

TERMS

F O B

INVOICE

45

Shipping Wind-Det
#39, FOOG, SW I

10 64

5 32

44 41

D31

SOLD TO Diamond Comics
612 Edmondson Ave.
SHIPPED TO Baltimore, MD 21228

ADDRESS VIA

DATE 8

SALESMAN

TERMS 30 dc

F O B

INVOICE

T O (Overland Express)

Shipping Detroit-to Baltimore
(United Parcel)

total due $36.04
#39 Wind-Detroit 29.26
+ FOOG + SWORDS I V 65.30

D31

PAID

SOLD TO Capital City Dist
2727 Perry St. Madison, WI
53713

SHIPPED TO

ADDRESS VA

DATE 8

SALESMAN

TERMS 30 days

F O B

INVOICE

Issue #37

(SW Encl)

Detroit to Ten Island (UPS)

#39 + FOOG + SW II
to Staten Island (UPS)

#39 Windsor to Detroit

total

10 64

10 64

57 15

35 91

$93 06

SOLD TO Pacific Comics
4277 Ironton Court, Suite E
SHIPPED TO San Diego, CA 92111

ADDRESS VA

DATE 8

SALESMAN

TERMS 30 days

F O B

INVOICE

Issue #37

Shipping -

Windsor to Detroit (Pacific)

Windsor to Detroit (Longhorn)

#39 + FOOG + SW II
Pacific - San Diego
Longhorn

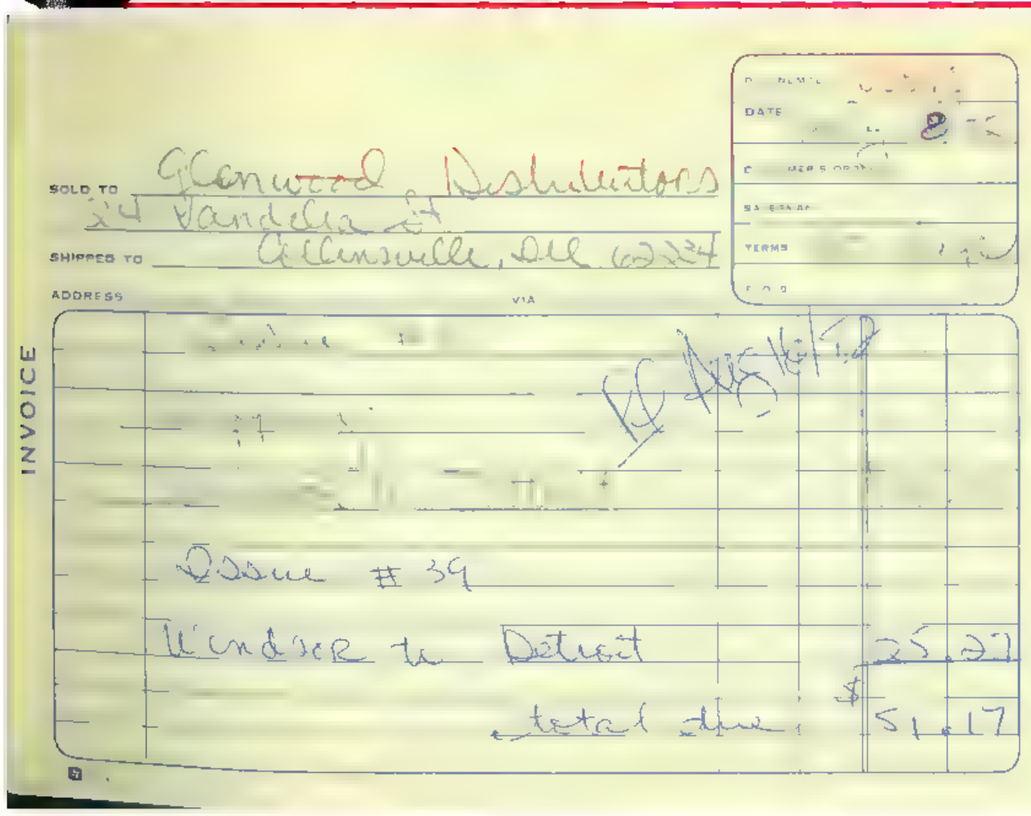
total due

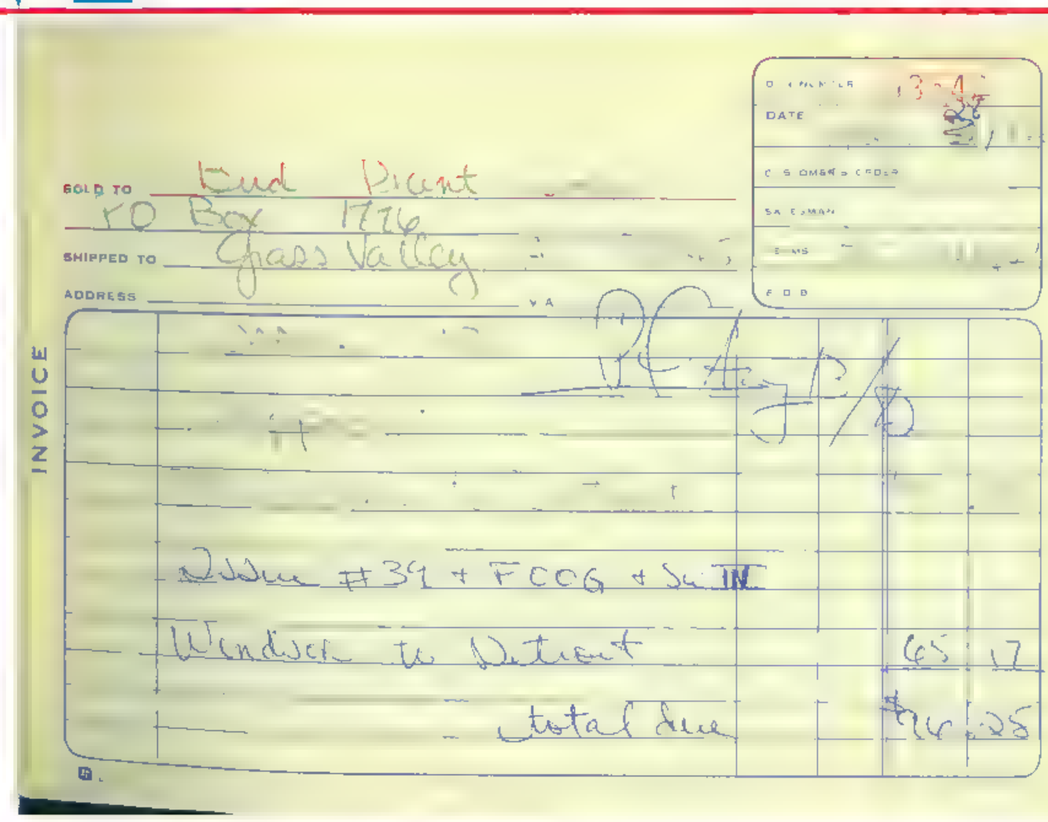
20.72

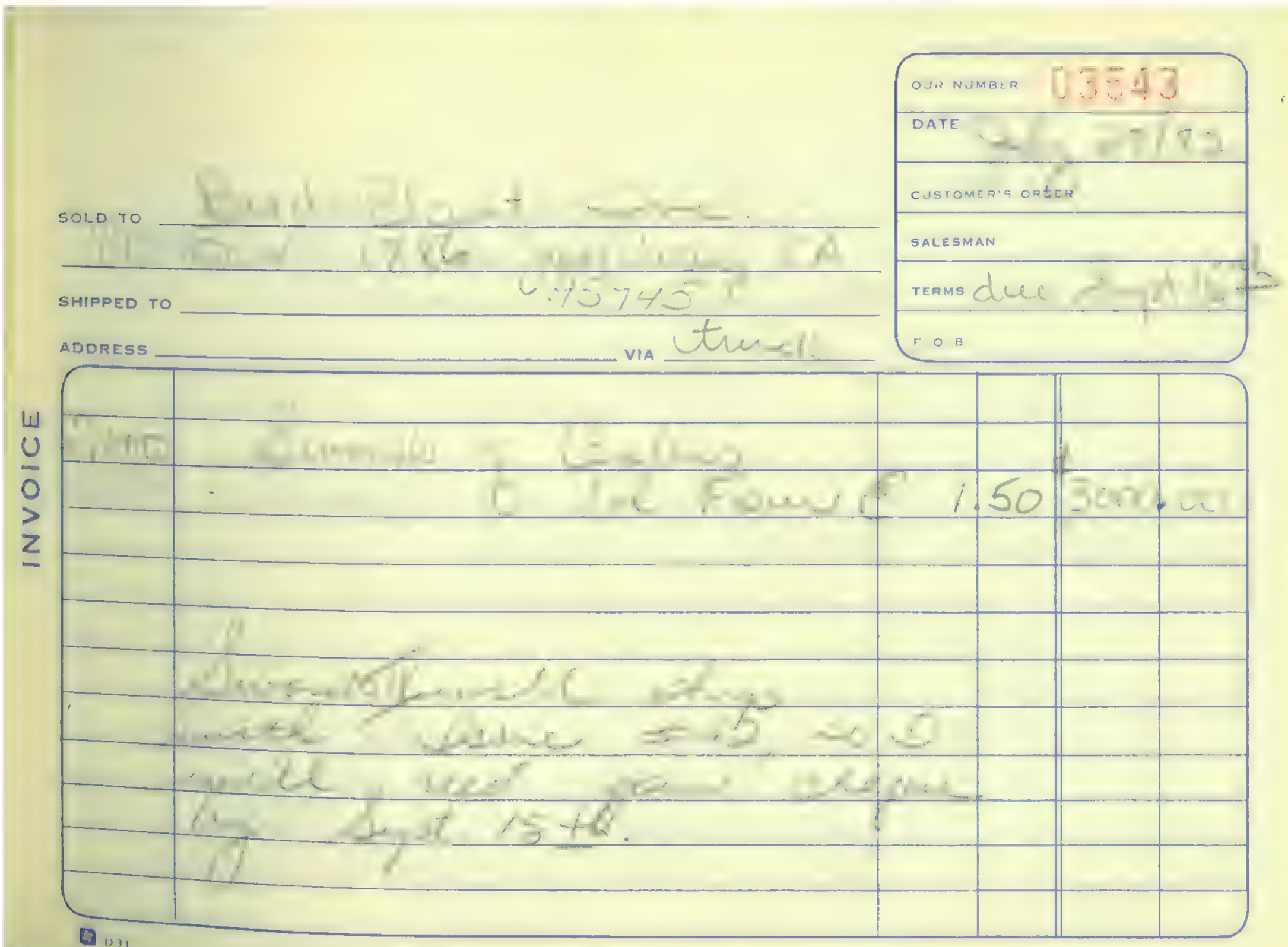
22 61

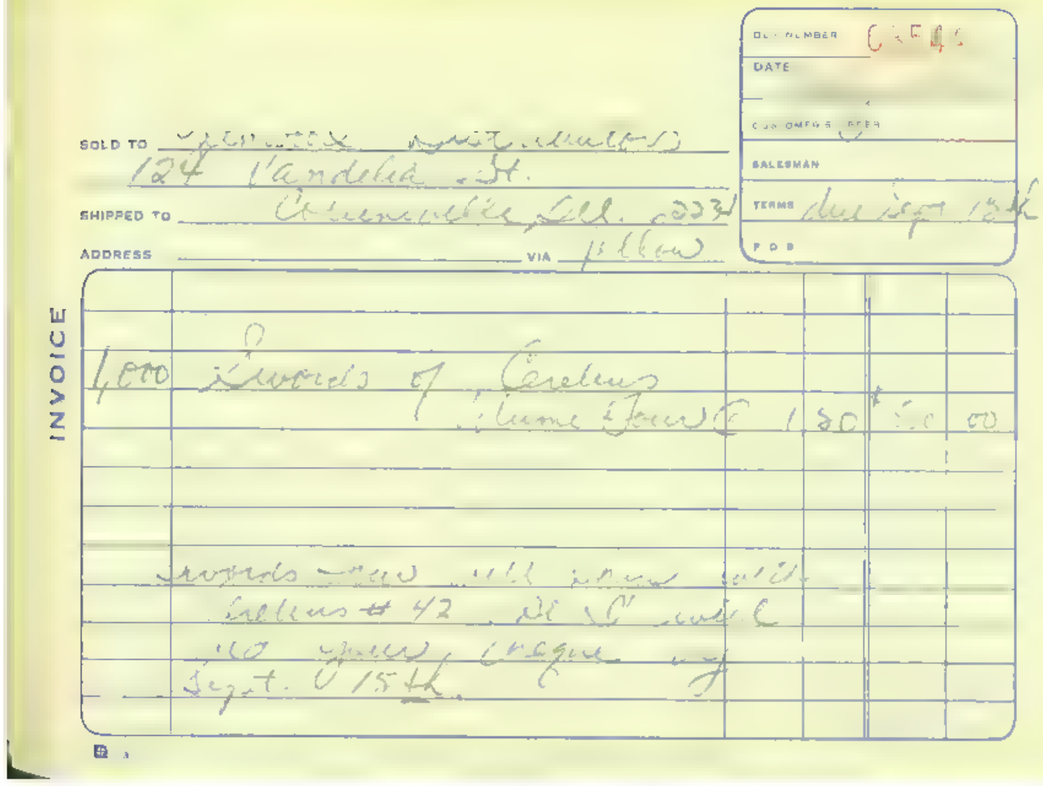
11 97

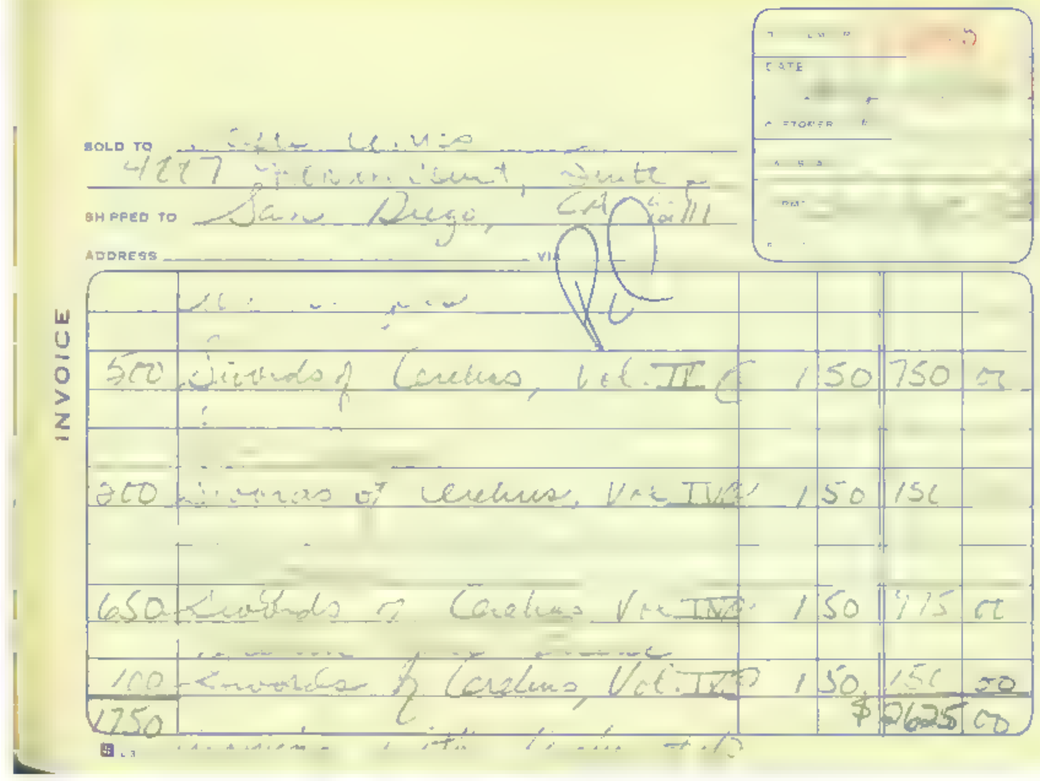
$ 70 84


SOLD TO Glenwood Distributors
124 Vandelia St
SHIPPED TO Allensville, Del 03234
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
TERMS
F O B
INVOICE
Issue #39
Windsor to Detroit 25.27
total due $ 51.17


SOLD TO Bud Plant
PO Box 1776
SHIPPED TO Grass Valley
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
F O B
INVOICE
Issue #39 + FCBG + Sk IV
Windsor to Detroit 65.17
total due $117.25


OUR NUMBER 0343
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS due
F O B
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
INVOICE
1.50
D 31


SOLD TO
124 Vandelia St.
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
SALESMAN
TERMS due
F O B
INVOICE
1,000
1.50
Swords of Cerebus
Issue 1 Issue
Swords of Cerebus #42
100 Swords of Cerebus
Sept. 0 15th.


SOLD TO
4227 Florida Street, Suite
SHIPPED TO San Diego, CA
ADDRESS
VIA
DATE
INVOICE
500 Swords of Cerebus, Vol. II
1.50
750
300 Swords of Cerebus, Vol. IV
150
650 Swords of Cerebus Vol. IV
975
100 Swords of Cerebus, Vol. IV
$2625

SOLD TO P.O. Box 211 Jen 'B'
SHIPPED TO Winnipeg, Man. Can
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
SALESMAN
TERMS Net 30 days 1%
F.O.B
INVOICE
1 Vol IV @ 1.50 15.00
Reprint with Cerebus #42
D31

SOLD TO 612 1/2
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE
INVOICE
1,000 Swords of Cerebus @ 1.50 1500.00
Vol. IV
Swords match #42.
Paid 12/12/82
Sgt

OUR NUMBER 03548
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
SOLD TO
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
INVOICE
D31

SOLD TO New and Used Books
Queen St E. Ont.
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
DATE 12
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
INVOICE
Cerebus
E. Il C. 1.50 15.00
D31

OUR NUMBER 03550
DATE
CUSTOMER'S ORDER
SALESMAN
TERMS
F O B
SOLD TO Bud Plant Inc
Box 99, Bonsall, Ill.
SHIPPED TO
ADDRESS VIA
INVOICE
115 US Low Rates 50 75
Bud: these were ordered by
comics and comix tube SC
in 74 to C&C at Berkley
Tom Walden. Suggested 5
tube pack @ .97 Post. Call
if need is serious
Dave

"Letter from Steve Schleef re: Texas stops on the 1982 US TOUR dates written by Deni "must be hotel & $100" written by Karen McKiel."
- Dave Sim

LONE STAR
COMICS & SCIENCE FICTION

511 East Abram St., Arlington, Texas 76010
(817) 265-0491 Buddy Saunders
(214) 373-0934 Steve Schleef

(817) 265-0491

Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc.
P.O. Box 1674
Station C
Ontario, Canada
N2G 4R2

June 29, 1982

Dear Deni,

We read in Cat Yronwode's FIT TO PRINT 53 that you and Dave were going on an autograph tour of the U.S. We hope that Lone Star will be included on your itinerary.

In the past, Frank Miller, Michael Golden, John Byrne, George Perez, Kerry Gammill, Craig Russell and Marv Wolfman have been guests in our stores. Walt Simonson, Chris Claremont and Terry Austin are scheduled to visit Lone Star soon after the X-MEN/TEEN TITANS comic is published. George Perez and Marv Wolfman will be coming back in late August when the TITANS ANNUAL comes out.

must we hotel & $100.

We can offer you and Dave accomodations at either my house or Buddy's house. Both of us have three bedroom homes and plenty of room. We'd be pleased to have you.

Enclosed are sample promotional flyers we've used in the past. These flyers are given out to store customers and are mailed to everyone on our computerized mailing list. We've experienced excellent turnouts in the past.

CEREBUS has a faithful following in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. We hope that you can visit us. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Oct. 16th Arlington
or
17th Dallas

Sincerely,

Steve Schleef

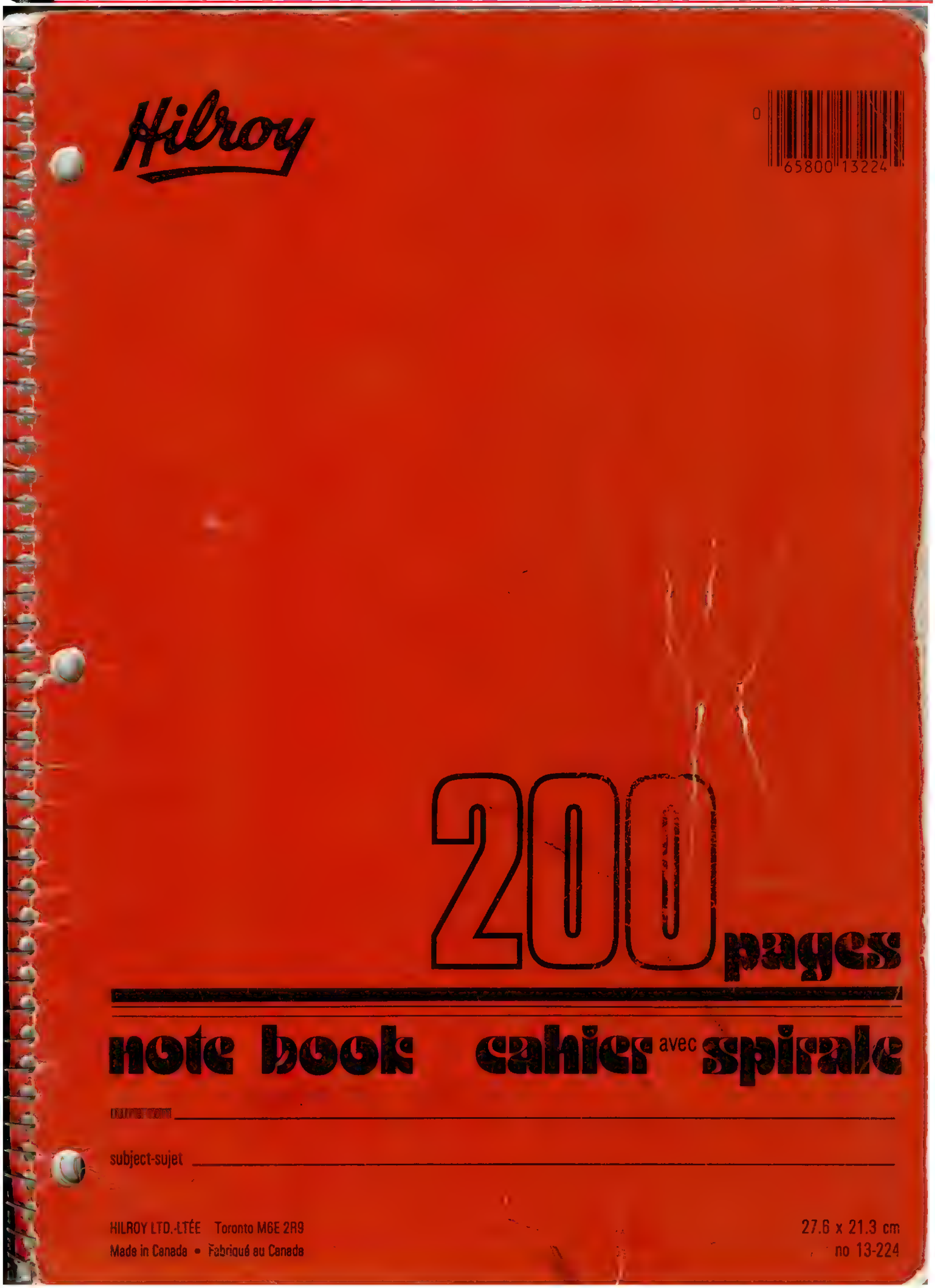
Oct 17th or 18th

CEREBUS

ARCHIVE

NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross Too"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

CEREBUS No 31 (OCTOBER ~~SEPTEMBER~~ 1979)

CEREBUS TRAILS MOON ROACH OVER ROOFTOPS FOLLOWS HIM
TO A TECHNOCRACY. ANGRITH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES
SOMETIMES I'M LIKE SOMETIMES I'M BAD COMMAND
STUFF ON A BOARD. DETAILED LANDSCAPE. MOON OF DEATH
TAKES HIM BACK AND LET HIM KILL PEOPLE WHO LOOK
FELDANS MUST KILLED. THE MILLIONAIRES WHO ARE
DEMANDING PAYMENTS FROM MILITARY TRIBUNAL

CECKERS WITH BOARD ROACH CLOSE NOW HOW ARE YOU, SIR
~~SIR~~ SIR. AS A MATTER OF FACT WE HAD JUST REACHED
AGREEMENT ON A DEBT THE CITY OF DEST OWED HIM FOR
SERVICES RENDERED. WHAT DID HE GET IN EXCHANGE? NOTHING
CECKERS PERSUADED HIM TO WAIVE THE CLAIM IN RETURN
FOR A CENSUS. LOOKING INTO FELDAN COMMISSIONING
HIM TO PROVIDE US WITH STREETLAMPS

LOOK DID HE GIVE YOU MONEY OR NOT? THE CITY DOESN'T
HAVE TO PAY OUT ALL THAT MONEY.
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT HE ~~DOESN'T~~ OWED MONEY
PAYING HOLLAND M. HODDEN WHAT IS OWED HIM?

BLANK

BLANK ~~IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT IF~~
~~YOU'RE TURNED THE CITY, WHY DON'T YOU GET THE FUCK~~
~~OUT OF HERE~~

CECKERS IS A LITTLE TIRED. WE CAN TALK ABOUT
THIS TOMORROW.

IF YOU PLEASE, M'LORD. I THINK NOW IS THE
TIME TO TALK WHILE THIS IS ALL

FRESH IN
OUR MINDS

MAYBE CECKERS DIDN'T MAKE
HIMSELF CLEAR. CECKERS IS
TIRED

HSANB 1/31 - At this point, HIGH SOCIETY was still HIGH SOCIETY and CHURCH & STATE in my head, so this seemed like a good time to drag the Church into the proceedings with the Moon Roach being under the control of a secret society at the apex of the Eastern Church. Nothing was ringing a bell on the first page of my notebook scripting...

I'm afraid I
must insist, m'lord.

Look, son, Cerebus doesn't
want you to get in trouble
Do you know the penalty
for forcibly detaining a
[illegible]

I think
so

Now I'll ask
you a question

Do you know the...
penalty for refusing
to answer a question
from a Grandholy
Elder of the Church
of ISIS?

What was the question again?
I asked you why it was that you thought
ISIS [illegible] would [illegible]
[illegible]

HSANB 2/31 ...until the unnamed individual says

"I'm afraid I must insist, m'lord."

'Look, son, Cerebus doesn't want you to get in trouble. Do you know the penalty for forcibly detaining a Ranking Diplomatic Representative?"

I'm afraid I must insist, Mr Cor

look, son, Cerebus doesn't want you to get in trouble Do you know the penalty for frivolously detaining a

I think so

Now I'll ask you a question

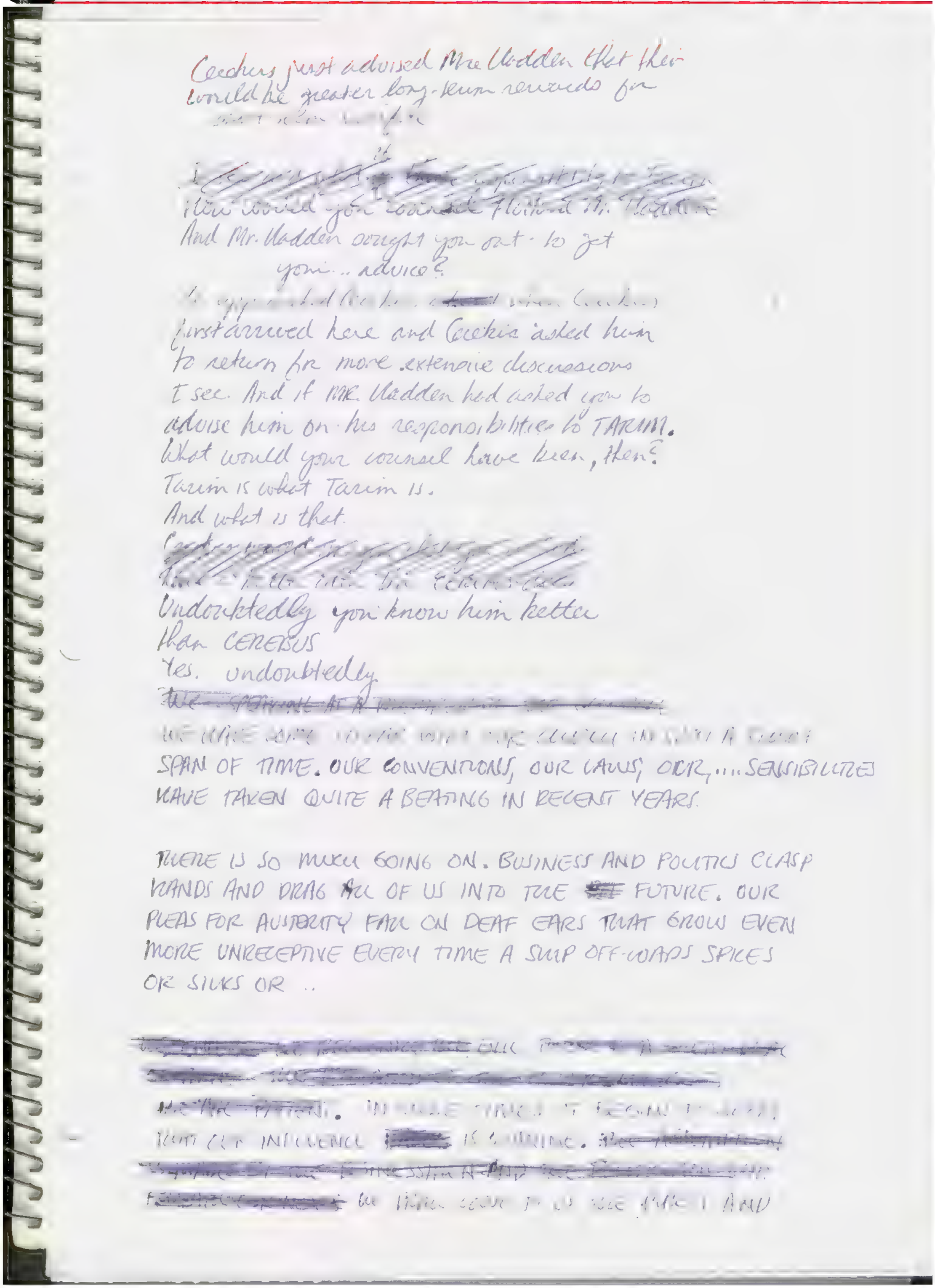
Do you know the... penalty for refusing to answer a question from a Grandholy Elder of the Church of IEST?

What was the question again?

I asked you why it was that you thought IEST would ...

'I think so. Now I'll ask you one. Do you know the penalty for refusing to answer a question from a Grandholy Elder of the Church of Iest?"

This would have been fine, but it was a Roach story – that meant it had to be funny.


Cerebus just advised Mr Hadden that their would be greater long-term rewards for
[redacted]
[redacted] How would you counsel Richard M. Hadden
And Mr. Hadden ought you not to get
your... advice?
[redacted] first arrived here and Cockis asked him
to return for more extensive discussions
I see. And if Mr. Hadden had asked you to
advise him on his responsibilities to TARIM.
What would your counsel have been, then?
Tarim is what Tarim is.
And what is that.
[redacted]
Undoubtedly you know him better
than CEREBUS
Yes. undoubtedly
[redacted]
SPAN OF TIME. OUR CONVENTIONS, OUR LAWS, OUR,... SENSIBILITIES
HAVE TAKEN QUITE A BEATING IN RECENT YEARS.
THERE IS SO MUCH GOING ON. BUSINESS AND POLITICS CLASP
HANDS AND DRAG ALL OF US INTO THE [redacted] FUTURE. OUR
PLEAS FOR AUTHORITY FALL ON DEAF EARS THAT GROW EVEN
MORE UNRECEPTIVE EVERY TIME A SLIP OFF-WORDS SPICES
OR SILKS OR ..
[redacted]

HSANB 3/31 - "I see. And if Mr. Hadden had asked you to advise him on his responsibilities to Tarim. What would your counsel have been then?"
"Tarim is what Tarim is." [Considering I was completely unfamiliar with the Bible at the time, this is pretty close to what God told Moshe when he asked who he should tell the Hebrew people was giving him instructions. "I am that I am. Tell them I am has sent you."]
"And what is that."
"Undoubtedly you know him better than Cerebus."

Cerebus just advised Mr Vladden that their would be greater long-term rewards for short-term sacrifice

[redacted]

first arrived here and Cerebus asked him to return for more extensive discussions I see. And if Mr. Vladden had asked you to advise him on his responsibilities to TARIM. What would your counsel have been, then?
Tarim is what Tarim is.
And what is that.

[redacted]

Undoubtedly you know him better than CEREBUS

[redacted]

SPAN OF TIME. OUR CONVENTIONS, OUR LAWS, OUR,...SENSIBILITIES HAVE TAKEN QUITE A BEATING IN RECENT YEARS.

THERE IS SO MUCH GOING ON. BUSINESS AND POLITICS CLASP HANDS AND DRAG ALL OF US INTO THE FUTURE. OUR PLEAS FOR AUSTERITY FALL ON DEAF EARS THAT GROW EVEN MORE UNRECEPTIVE EVERY TIME A SHIP OFF-LOADS SPICES OR SILKS OR ..

[redacted]

WE ARE PATIENT. IN THESE TIMES IT BEGINS TO SEEM

[redacted]

"Yes. Undoubtedly."
"We have come so far with our Church in such a short span of time. Our conventions, our laws, our...sensibilities have taken quite a beating in recent years. There is so much going on. Business and politics clasp hands and drag all of us into the future. Our pleas for austerity fall on deaf ears that grow even more unreceptive every time a ship off-loads spices or silks or...In these times it begins to seem that our influence is waning. We draw those to us the purest and..."

MOST DEVOUT -- A CORE OF STRENGTH AS WE STEEL
OURSELVES FOR A DIMINISHED ROLE

BUT THE MERCHANTS AND THE SOLICITORS AND THE
BUREAUCRATS -- WHEN THEY DECIDE THAT WE ARE
LITTLE MORE THAN A ~~STATUE~~ MONUMENT COLLECTING
DUST IN THE MIDST OF THEIR GRAND CITY

THEY MAKE A GRAVE ~~ERROR~~ ERROR IN JUDGEMENT

THE CITY IS STILL ~~OUR~~ OURS

AND OUR POWER OVER IT IS ABSOLUTE

I HAVE ONE MORE THING TO SAY AND THEN
I MUST LEAVE

A MAN ON THE SECOND FLOOR SAID HE SAW YOU DRAG
HADDEN ONTO THE DRIVEWAY. AND THAT HE WAS SCREAMING
SOMETHING ABOUT A RECEIPT.

QUITE NATURALLY I TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD TO BEEN
MISTAKEN. I EXPLAINED THAT YOU HAD CAUSED NO
TROUBLE SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL IN LEST AND THAT
HE WOULD NOT BE WELL SERVED BY BRINGING YOU
TO TRIAL.

I DID ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD BE WATCHING YOU
CLOSELY BUT THAT WE DIDN'T ~~FORESEE~~ ANY NEED TO
~~CURTAIL~~ OUR ~~FREE~~ OPINIONS

HSANB 4/31 - "most devout – a core of strength as we steel ourselves for a diminished role. But the merchants and the solicitors and the bureaucrats – when they decide that we are little more than a monument collecting dust in the midst of their grand city, they make a grave error in judgement. The city is still ours. And our power over it is absolute. I have one more thing to say and then I must leave. A man on the second floor said he saw you drag Hadden onto the driveway. *continued...*

MOST DEVOUT -- A CORE OF STRENGTH AS WE STEEL
OURSELVES FOR A DIMINISHED ROLE

BUT THE MERCHANTS AND THE SOLICITORS AND THE
BUREAUCRATS -- WHEN THEY DECIDE THAT WE ARE
LITTLE MORE THAN A ~~STATUE~~ MONUMENT COLLECTING
DUST IN THE MIDST OF THEIR GRAND CITY

THEY MAKE A GRAVE ~~ERROR~~ ERROR IN JUDGEMENT

THE CITY IS STILL ~~OVER~~ OURS

AND OUR POWER OVER IT IS ABSOLUTE

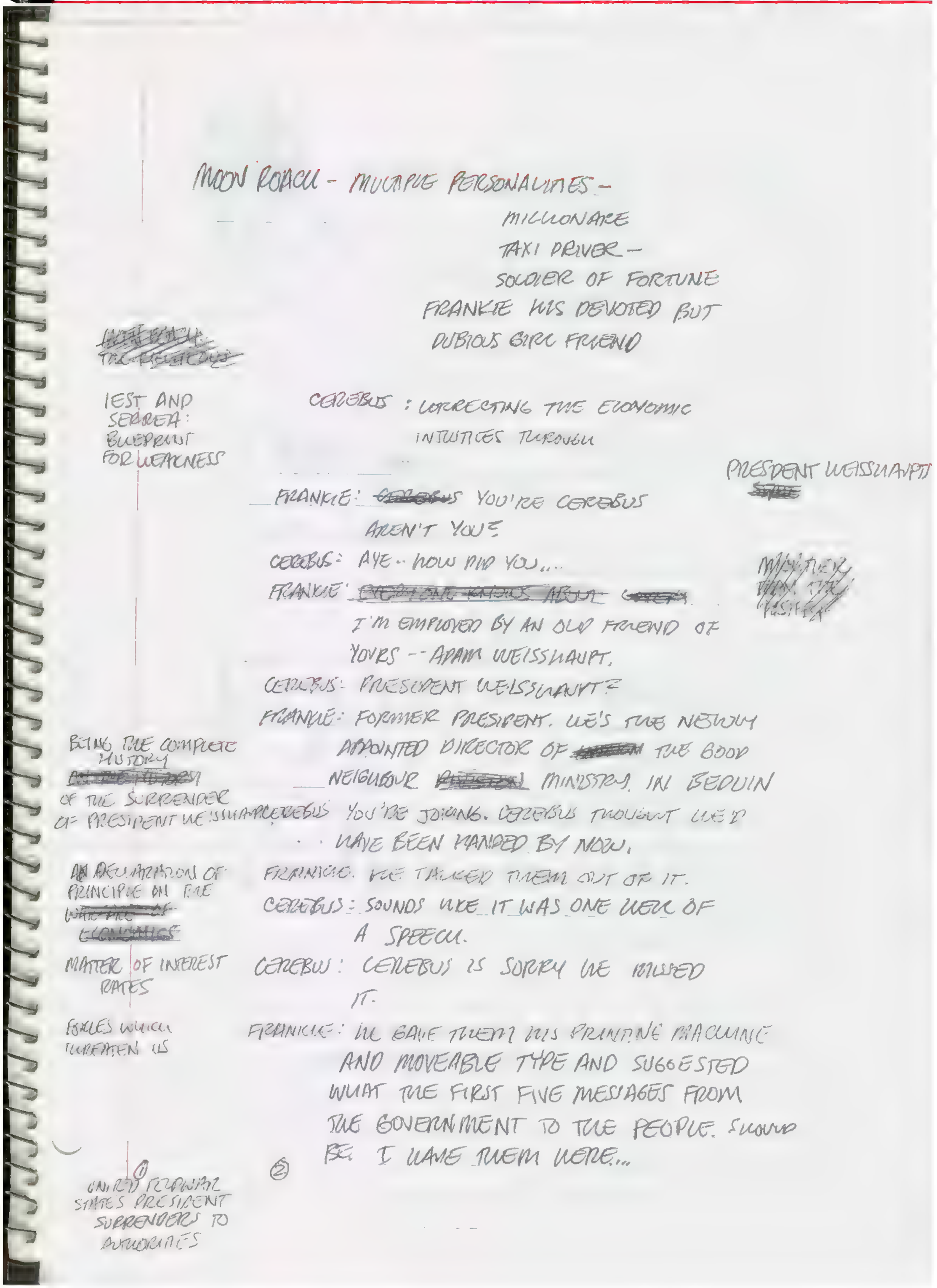
I HOPE ONE MORE THING TO SAY: AND THEN
I MUST LEAVE

A MAN ON THE SECOND FLOOR SAID HE SAW YOU DRAG
HADDEN ONTO THE DRIVEWAY. AND THAT HE WAS SCREAMING
SOMETHING ABOUT A RECEIPT. HADDEN

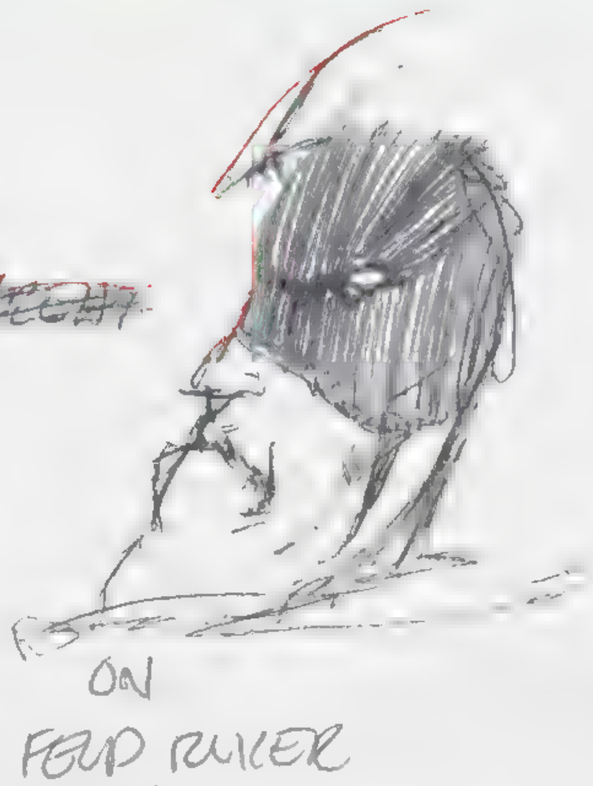
HAVE
QUITE NATURALLY I TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD TO BEEN
MISTAKEN. I EXPLAINED THAT YOU HAD CAUSED NO
TROUBLE SINCE YOUR ARRIVAL IN LEST AND THAT
HE WOULD NOT BE WELL SERVED BY BRINGING YOU
TO TRIAL.

I DID ASSURE HIM THAT WE WOULD BE WATCHING YOU
CLOSELY BUT THAT WE DIDN'T ~~EXPECT~~ ANY NEED TO
ANTICIPATE
CHANGE OUR ~~MINDS~~
OPINIONS

And that Hadden was screaming something about a receipt. Quite naturally, I told him that he had to have been mistaken. I explained that you had caused no trouble since your arrival in lest and that he would not be well served by bringing you to trial. I did assure him that we would be watching you closely but that we didn't anticipate any need to change our opinions." And the whole time, the Moon Roach is sitting there not saying anything. A real laugh riot. So, back to Square One.



HSANB 5/31 - Start over with "what part of Moon Knight am I parodying?" Multiple personalities. And then "Frankie, his devoted but dubious girlfriend". Frankie was a "working name" – MOON KNIGHT artist Bill Sienkiewicz's wife at the time was named Frankie. Link her to Weisshaupt.



FELD RIVER VALLEY:

ON

THE FELD RIVER VALLEY:

BEING A DECLARATION OF THE DESTINY AND PURPOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LOWER FELDA.

① MOON ROACH
② CEREBUS FOLLOWING
③ ARRIVES IN ROOM CEREBUS FOLLOWS

② THE SECRET WAR.

③ WHILE THE PEOPLE SOTERNE. WEIRUM AND THE COUNCIL OF TARUM

(4)

THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING SQUEEZED LIKE A SPONGE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF SEPIOA AND ISEST IT'S ALL A CONSPIRACY OF THE CIRINIST-HSIFFY-TARIMITE TRIANGLE TO FORCE THE MINORITY TO BECOME A MATRIARCHY, A NATION OF FEMALE BREEDS OR A

LOWER FELDA

CIRINIST-HSIFFY-TARIMITE

CIRINIST-TURN ALL OF THE WOMEN AGAINST THE MEN

BED-STRIKES

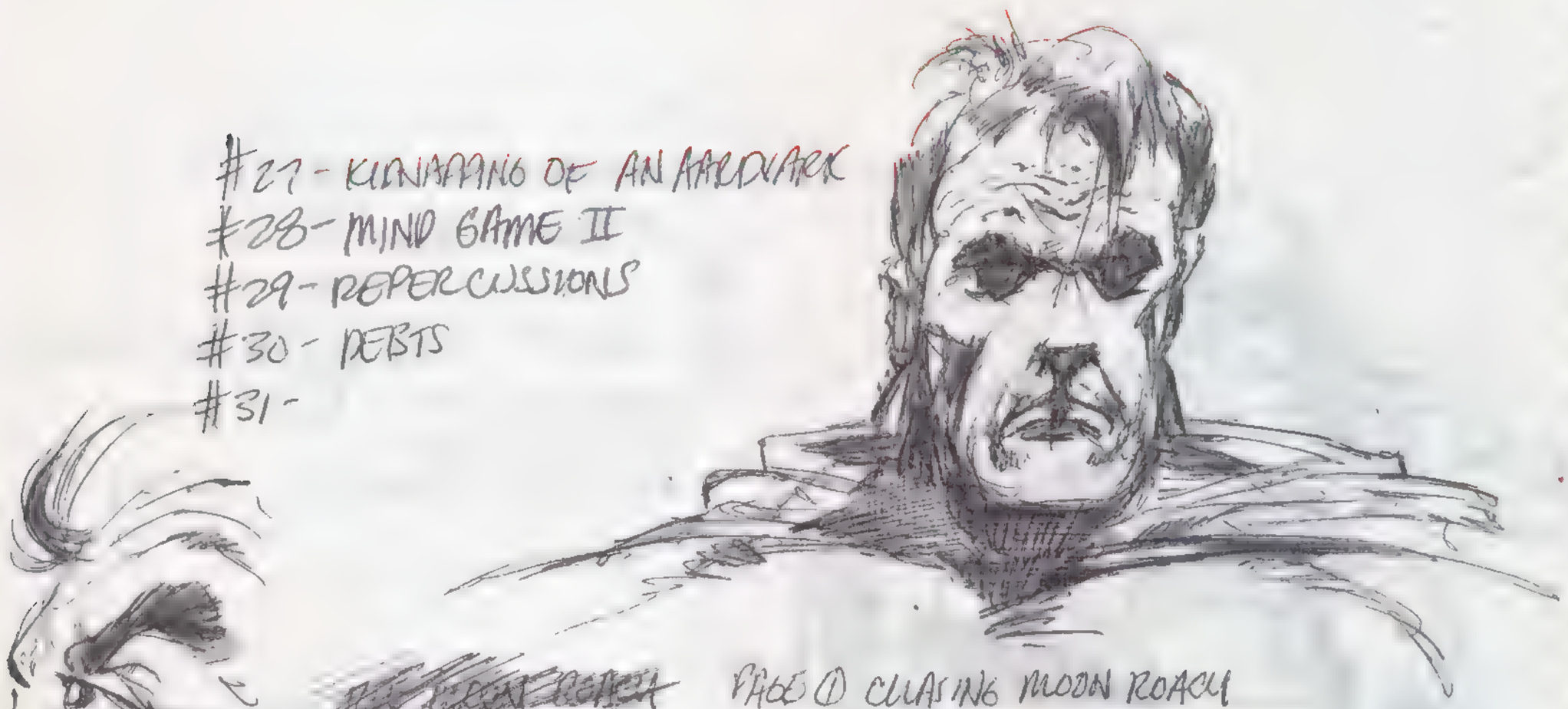
IS ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY.

BED-STRIKE THE WOMEN OF UPPER FELDA REFUSED THEIR HUSBANDS

HSANB 6/31 - And then I thought, no make her a Cirinist. The Roach has been fooled into helping the Cirinists. A few notes on that but it doesn't seem to be going anywhere either. Lots of talk and no laughs.

HSANB 7/31 – Draw a quick sketch of Cerebus and the Roach. Okay, what does SHE look like? Try a couple of different sketches. Nothing.

#27 - KIDNAPPING OF AN AARDVARK
#28 - MIND GAME II
#29 - REPERCUSSIONS
#30 - DEBTS
#31 -



PAGE ① CHASING MOON ROACH
"~~BEDSIDE TEA~~
BLOODS

PAGE ② IS in through a window
a fellow guest of the hotel
WAS TO MAKE SURE HE'S CRAZY
ENOUGH TO NOT REMEMBER
CEREBUS HE'S BLOODING I WOULDN'T

PAGE ③ ARE YOU HIS KEEPER, LADY?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING I AM
PAID
... QUITE HANDSOMELY, I MIGHT
ADD...
... TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH
ON HIM.
YOU MUST HAVE DOZED OFF FOR A
MINUTE, HE JUST KILLED ROLAND
M. WARDEN

EVERY TIME THE
MERCHANTS BANK OF LOWER
~~FEDERA GOVERNMENT~~
~~MIDDLE OF ATMOSPHERE~~
~~SWITCH~~
~~OF LOWER FEDERATION~~

EVERY TIME THE GOVERNMENT
OF LOWER FEDORA IS
REQUIRED TO MAKE AN
INTEREST PAYMENT ON THEIR
OUTSTANDING LOANS WITH
OTHER COUNTRIES

ON THE CONTRARY I TOLD HIM TO
DO IT...

EVERY TIME ONE OF OUR

HSANB 8/31 - Write out the titles of the first four issues and hope that gives me the fifth. "Chasing Moon Roach". Okay, it's something. A detailed doodle like the one at the top of the page is just something to do while I'm thinking. Sample lines for the girl. It isn't any funnier than the "Grandholy (Grandholy?) Elder" had been.

PAGE ① MOON PORCH FLEEING CEREBUS IN PURSUIT

② IN A WINDOW FELLOW GUEST, EH? COOTIE?

LOOK CEREBUS IS GOING TO HAVE A TOUCH TIME EXPLAINING HOW ROLAND M. HARDEN GOT CRUSHED BY A GIANT STONE MELON RUND JUST AFTER HE SIGNED...,

COOTIE?

~~HE'S BLEEDING~~ HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE HIM AWAY

~~I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT BE AT IT AGAIN FIGHTING...~~

PLEASE DON'T I BEG OF YOU

~~I'M BECOME HE. HIS NAME IS~~ ASTORIA ~~ASBORIA SLEEPIN~~

③ YOU HIS KEEPER, LADY? ~~I'M THE ONE~~ IN A WAY, I SUPPOSE

~~AND. HE CAME TO HERE ONE NIGHT~~ WELL ~~BABBLING SOMETHING ABOUT BEDBUGS~~ AGAIN. ~~AND HALLUCINATION.~~

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN

~~"BLOOD IN THE STREETS, PLEASE FORGIVE ME PEOPLE"~~ ~~I SUGGESTED IN ONE ARTICLE~~

I'M NOT PROUD OF IT, BUT, WELL ME

I WAS WONDERING I COULD SEE HOW HE COULD SAY

~~WHY I CONSIDERED MOVED TO CLOSE ADJOINING ROOM~~

IT WAS PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE, YOU UNDERSTAND I MOVED MY THINGS TO THE ADJOINING ROOM

~~IT WAS MY WEEK BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED HE LOOKS THE WORSE~~

I SIMPLY WANTED A COMPANION, SOMEONE I COULD TALK TO...

PROBLEM

④ YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SORT OF DESPERATE

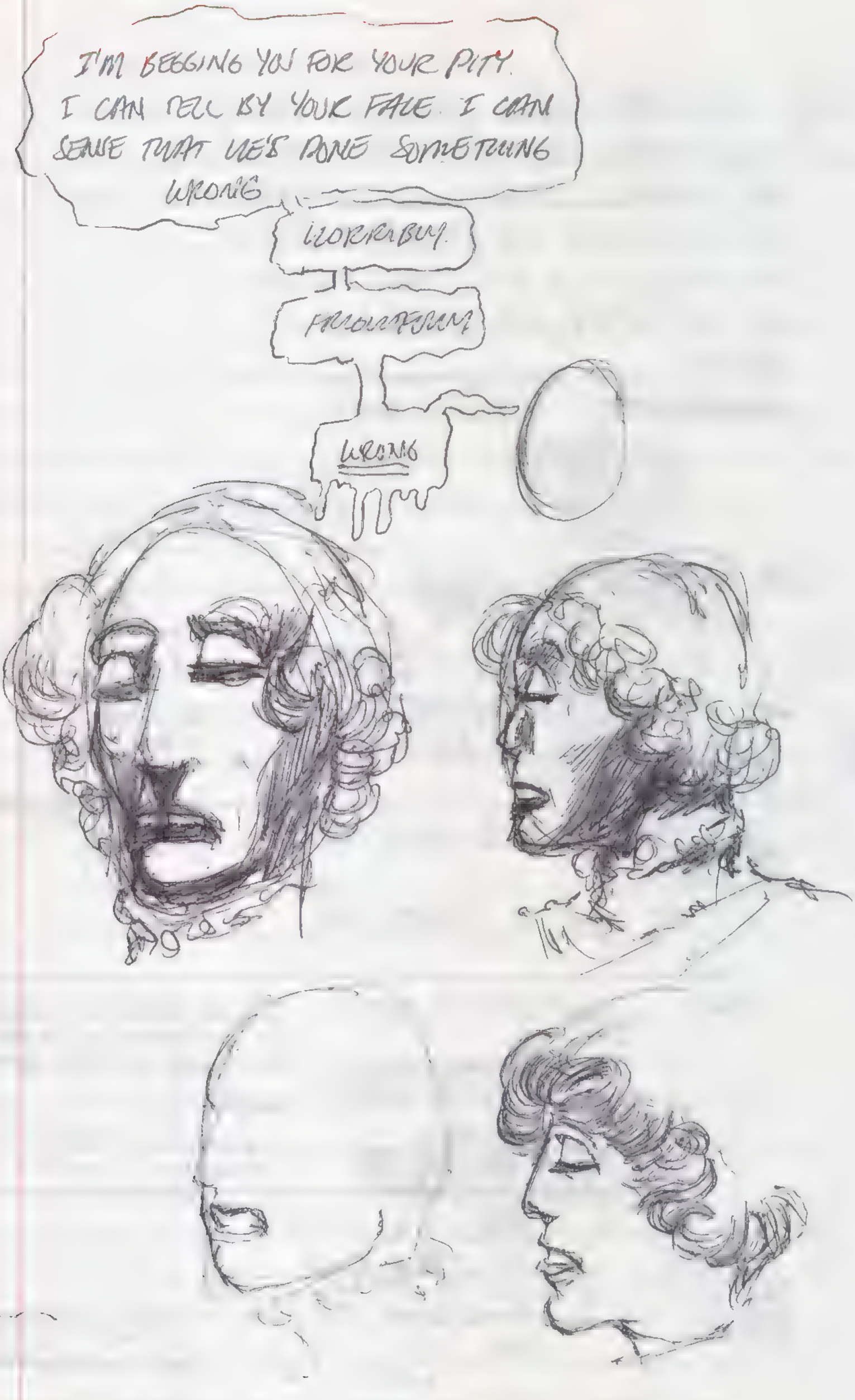
OH, I KNOW I KNOW I MUST SOUND SO FOOLISH TO YOU... I SOMETIMES THINK I'M MAD

CEREBUS HOPES YOU AREN'T LOOKING FOR AN ARGUMENT

QUITE

QUITE MAD ~~HAVE MUCH~~

HSANB 9/31 - Trying a lot of different things all over the page until I'm almost at the bottom and "Oh, I know...I know I must sound so foolish to you...I sometimes think I'm mad..." You can see I get a hitch in my pen trying to write "quite". It's a "Eureka moment": "quite mad". The Mary Astor character. And she's not a Cirinist she's a Kevillist.



HSANB 10/31 - Mary Astor doing Brigid O'Shaughnessy in THE MALTESE FALCON and Cerebus...instead of Humphrey Bogart doing Sam Spade. "I'm begging you for your pity. I can tell by your face...I can sense that he's done something wrong... horribly...frightfully...wrong." NOW I had something to work with. But she looked too much like Katherine Hepburn. Without Spencer Tracy there is absolutely nothing funny about Katherine Hepburn.

HSANB 11-13/31 - I got the look I needed pretty quickly. She had to be a serious character but she also had to be able to chew the scenery as Brigid O'Shaughnessy when required.

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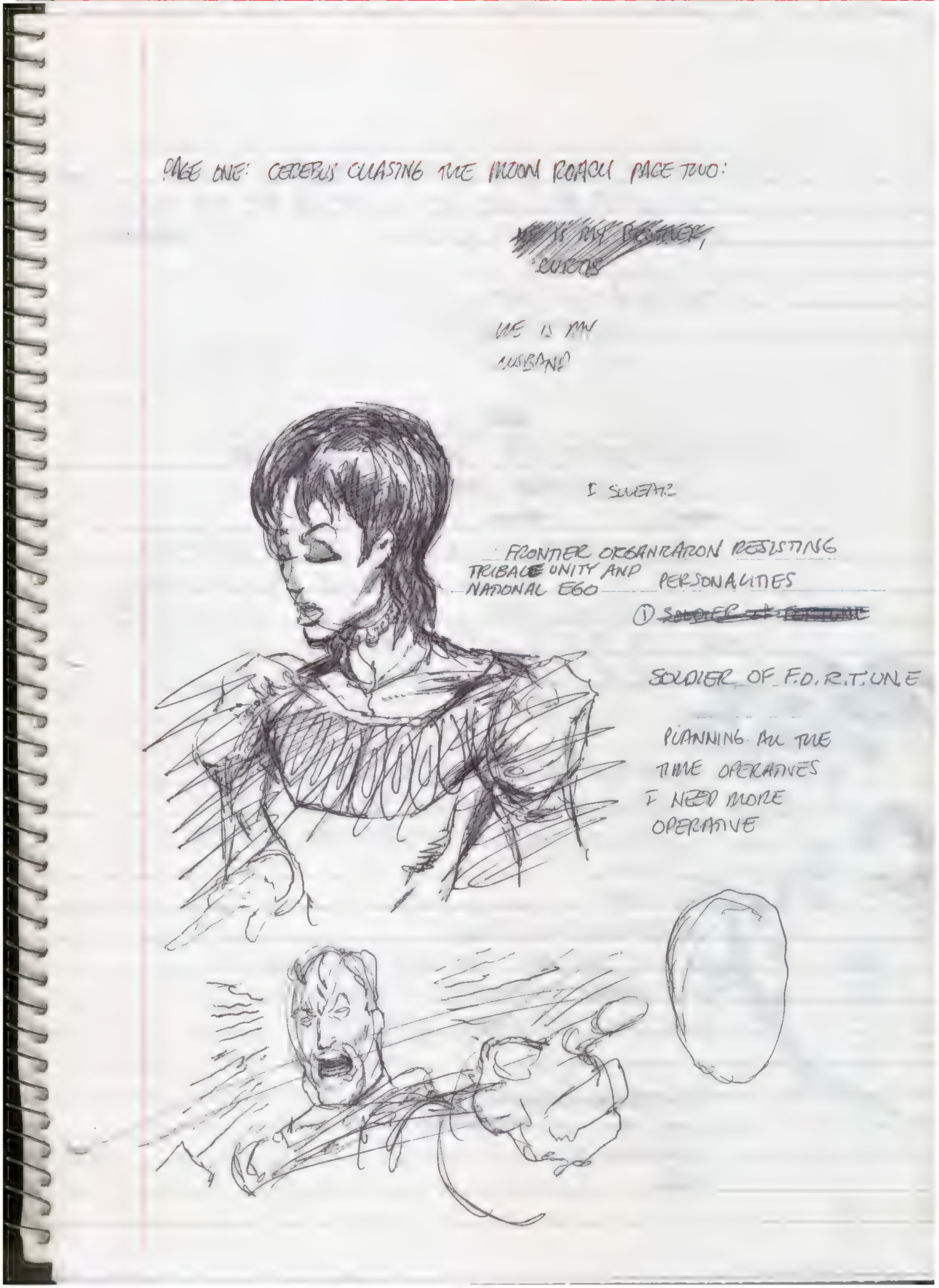

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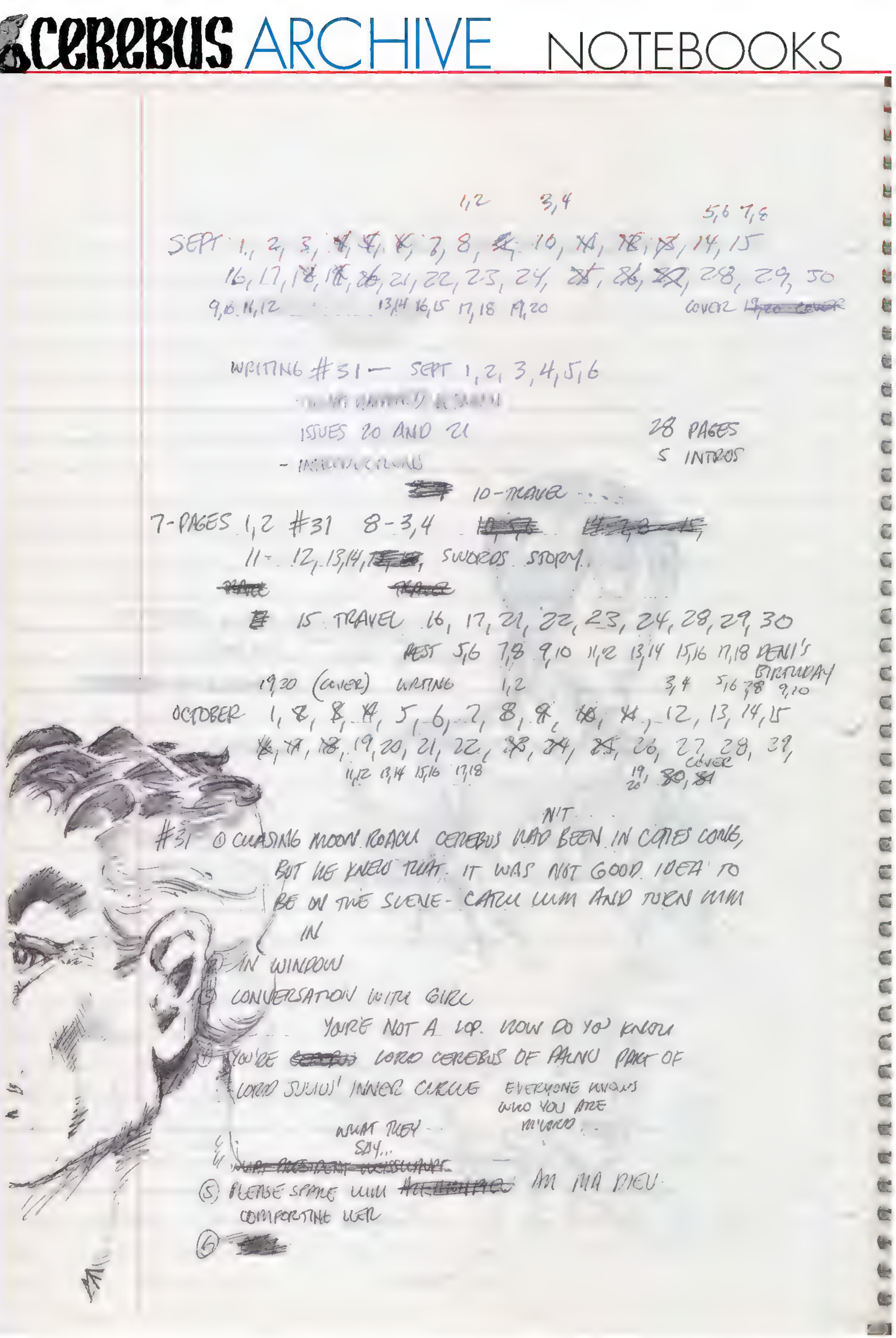

1,2 3,4 5,6 7,8
SEPT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
9,10 11,12 13,14 15,16 17,18 19,20 COVER
WRITING #31 — SEPT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ISSUES 20 AND 21
28 PAGES
5 INTROS
10-TRAVEL
7-PAGES 1,2 #31 8-3,4
11- 12, 13, 14, SWORDS STORM.
15 TRAVEL 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30
REST 5,6 7,8 9,10 11,12 13,14 15,16 17,18 GENI'S BIRTHDAY
19,20 (COVER) WRITING 1,2 3,4 5,6 7,8 9,10
OCTOBER 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29,
11,12 13,14 15,16 17,18 19, 20 COVER 30, 31
#31 ① CHASING MOON ROACH CEREBUS HAD BEEN IN CITIES LONG, BUT HE KNEW THAT IT WAS NOT GOOD IDEA TO BE ON THE SCENE- CATCH HIM AND TURN HIM IN
② IN WINDOW
③ CONVERSATION WITH GIRL
YOU'RE NOT A LOG. HOW DO YOU KNOW
④ YOU'RE LORD CEREBUS OF ALNU PART OF LORD JULIUS' INNER CIRCLE
EVERYONE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE M'LORD
WHAT THEY SAY...
⑤ PLEASE SPARE HIM AM I'M DIEU.
COMFORTING HER
⑥

HSANB 14/31 - You can see how busy my schedule was at the time: writing issue #31, "What Happened Between Issues 20 and 21" and five introductions for SWORDS volume 4 and then travelling up to Gananoque to draw "What Happened..." with Gene while staying on a monthly schedule.

(6)

#27 KIDNAPPING #28 - MIND GAME II #29 - REPERCUSSIONS
#30 DEBTS #31 -

DIRTY PIERCE DIRTY MEEW IN PRISON
BUTLERS ATTENDANTS
MOON ROACH "REGENCY ELF"

① GOES AFTER COOTIE ② FINDS HIM GIRL BEES. RELENTS BUT KEEP HIM OUT OF CEREBUS' HAIR ③ INVESTIGATOR FROM CHURCH OKAY I'LL GET HIM FOR YOU. ④ NOBODY THERE

10 MURDERS=!
ALL OF THE~~SE~~ VICTIMS WERE UNDER PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH OF TARIM

LAST WEEK THE ELDERS MET AND ~~DECIDED~~ VOTED TWO TO ONE ~~HIM~~ THAT THIS "MOON ROACH" BE DECREED ~~AS~~ A ~~MANIFESTATION~~ MANIFESTATION OF ~~THE~~ DARK NATURE

~~HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER COMPLAINTS~~

A NUMBER OF THIS CITY'S BUSINESSMEN PAY US A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY TO REMAIN SAFE

~~FOR CHURCH THIS~~ ~~SEEMS THAT WOULD~~ ~~BE~~

OUR PEOPLE DON'T DO THESE KIND OF THINGS

THEREFORE IT IS THE WORK OF SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE

~~EXTERMINATE~~

ANYONE COMING IN CONTACT WITH HIM ~~IS CONTAMINATED~~ BECOMES ~~CURSED AS "UNCLEAN"~~ AN IMPURE ENTITY

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT PURIFICATION REQUIRES COMPLETE INCINERATION OF THE ~~MORTAL~~ PHYSICAL BODY

HSANB 15/31 I was still trying to plot the intrigue side of the story when I should have just been writing Moon Roach and Mary Astor gags.

~~SAVE OF~~

FATHER ELRIOM ~~[illegible]~~ CAST OUT OF HEAVEN'S DOMAIN

SAVIOR CELESTIAL EXCRUTIATING AGONIES MUST BE SUFFERED TO CLEANSE HIS SOUL

BEYOND IS WHAT IT SAYS. INTERVENTION BY A PONTIFF IS

REDEMPTION REQUIRED

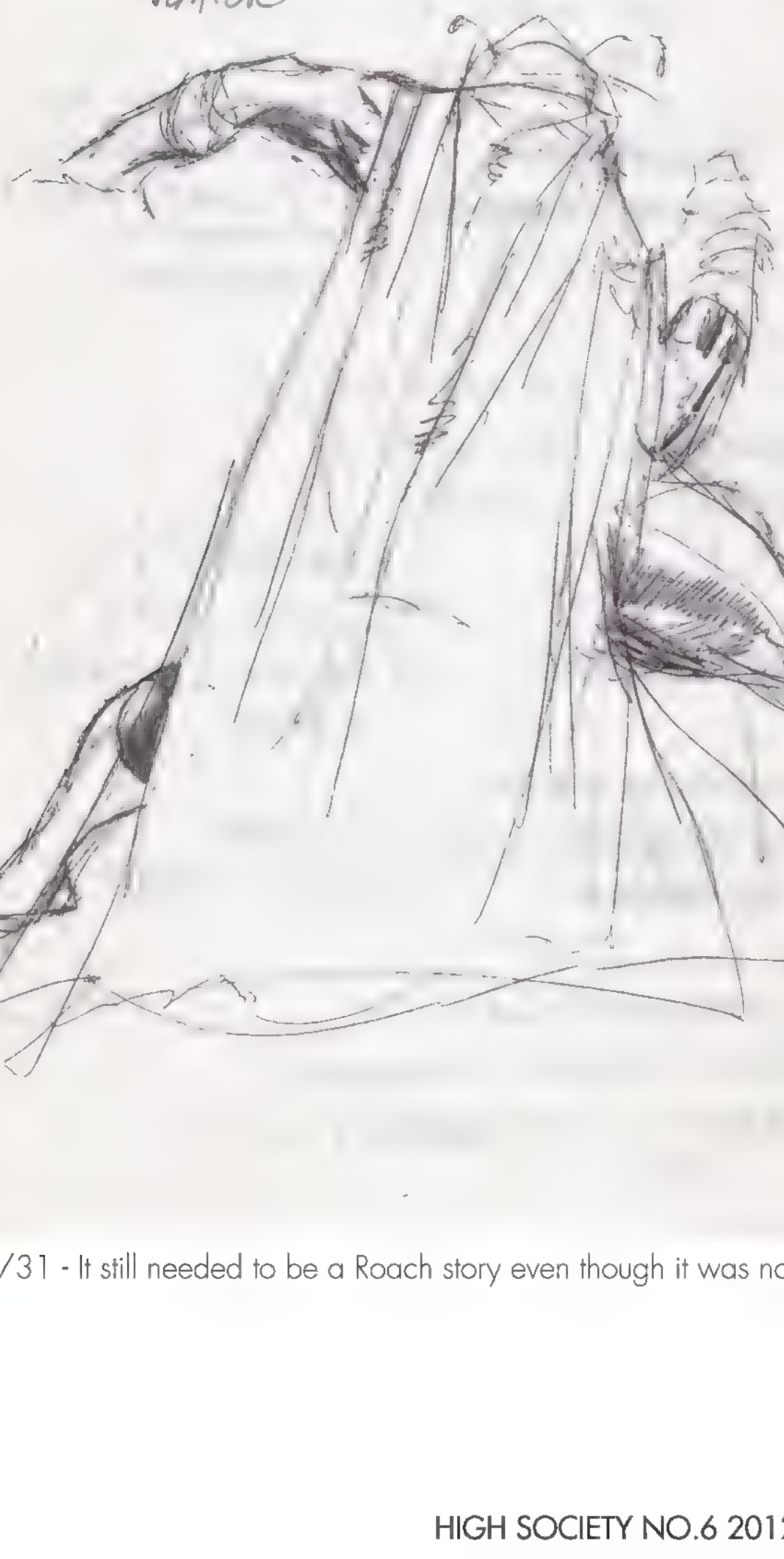
DARK

MANIFESTATION

APOCALYPSE

BEAST

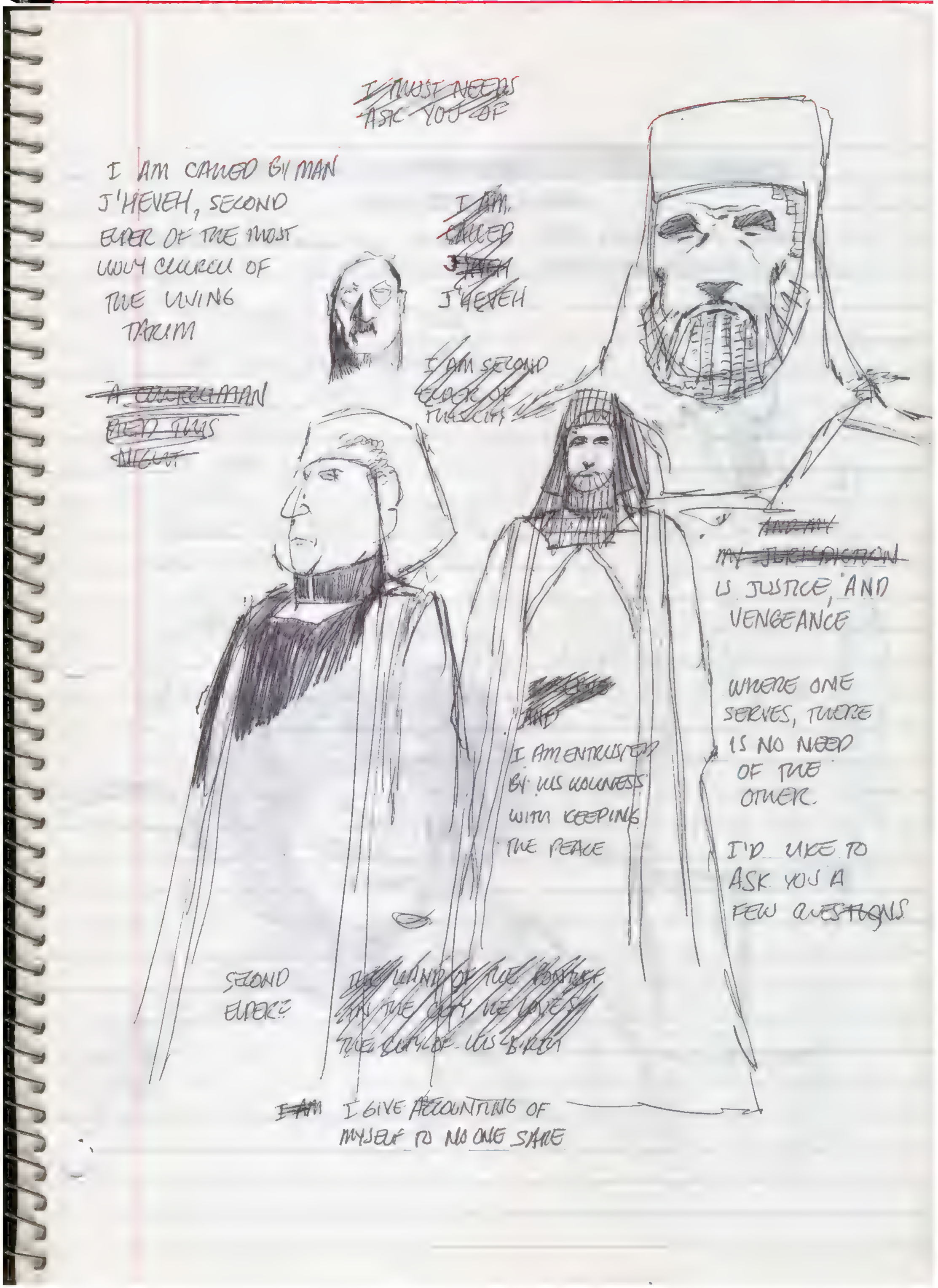
① CELESTINE ASSAULTS ROACH IN WINDOW. ② ~~GIRL ASSAULTS PRIEST~~ PLEASE DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY HE'S ALL I HAVE! HE KILLED HOWARD M. HADDEN! IF HE CROSSES CEREBUS' PATH ONE MORE TIME CEREBUS IS GOING TO HAND HIM TO THE AUSTRALOPITHS ON A SILVER PLATTER



③ WE HAD A TOWN AGAINST HADDEN

④ CEREBUS ARRIVING BACK AT HIS ROOM

HSANB 16/31 - It still needed to be a Roach story even though it was now also a Kevillist and Church of Tarim story.


I MUST NEEDS ASK YOU OF
I AM CALLED BY MAN J'HEVEH, SECOND ELDER OF THE MOST HOLY CHURCH OF THE LIVING TARUM
I AM CALLED J'HEVEH
A COUNCILMAN BIDS HIS MIGHT
I AM SECOND ELDER OF TARUM
AND MY JURISDICTION IS JUSTICE, AND VENGEANCE
WHERE ONE SERVES, THERE IS NO NEED OF THE OTHER.
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS
AND
I AM ENTRUSTED BY HIS HOLINESS WITH KEEPING THE PEACE
SECOND ELDER?
THE HAND OF THE PONTIFF IN THE CITY HE LOVES THE LORD OF HIS BIRTH
I AM
I GIVE ACCOUNTING OF MYSELF TO NO ONE SAVE

HSANB 17/31 - I'd keep the Church figure as a walk-on part, but it had to be there. I'm almost five issues in and I haven't said anything about the Church yet.

6 ~~[illegible]~~

~~PICKS UP IN CEREBUS #~~ form

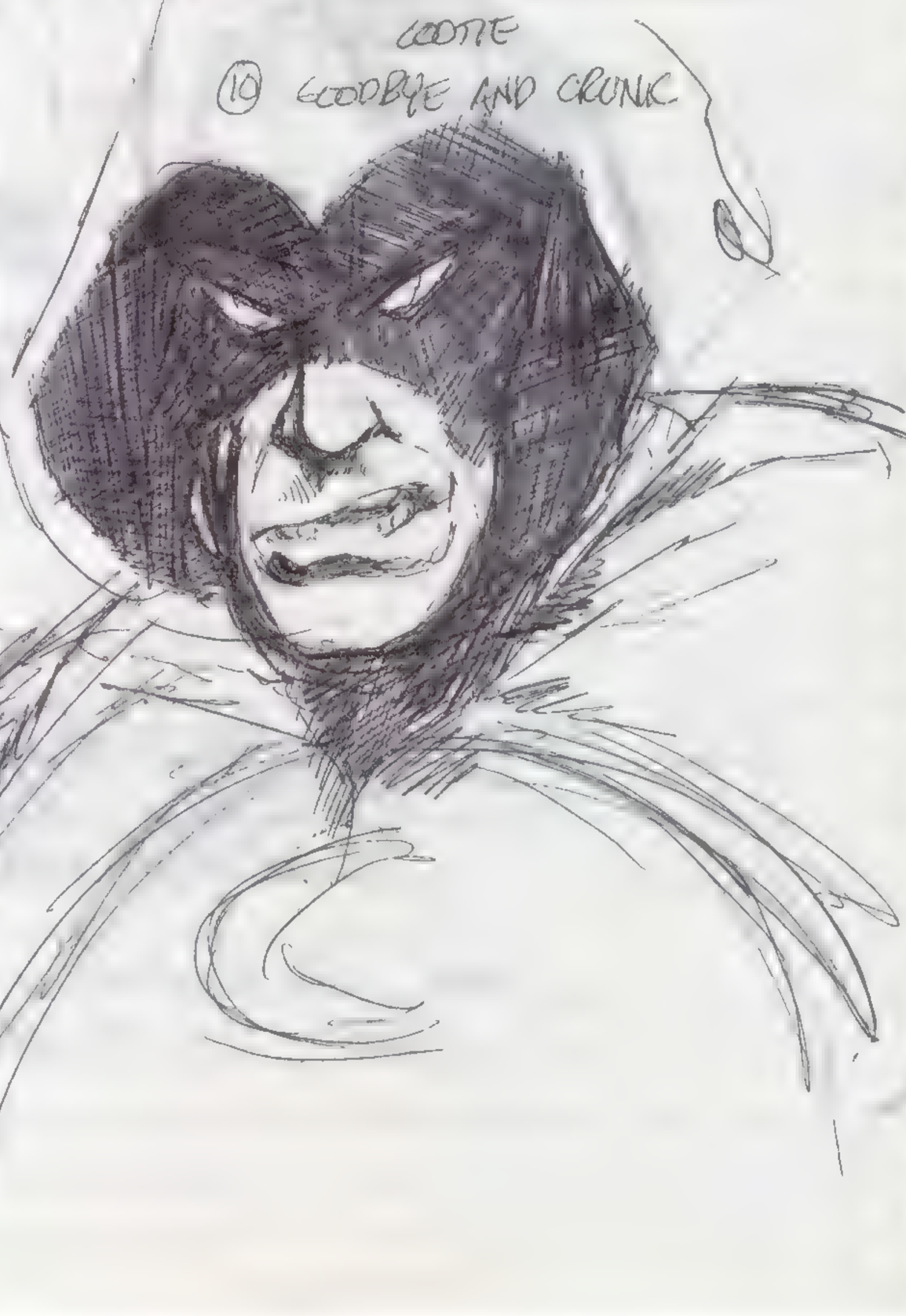
1) CEREBUS CLIMBS MOON ROACH (2) FOLLOWS HIM THROUGH WINDOW
3) GIRL PERSUADES ~~HIM~~ CEREBUS TO NOT TURN HIM IN

"I HAVE TO GET HIM DRESSED

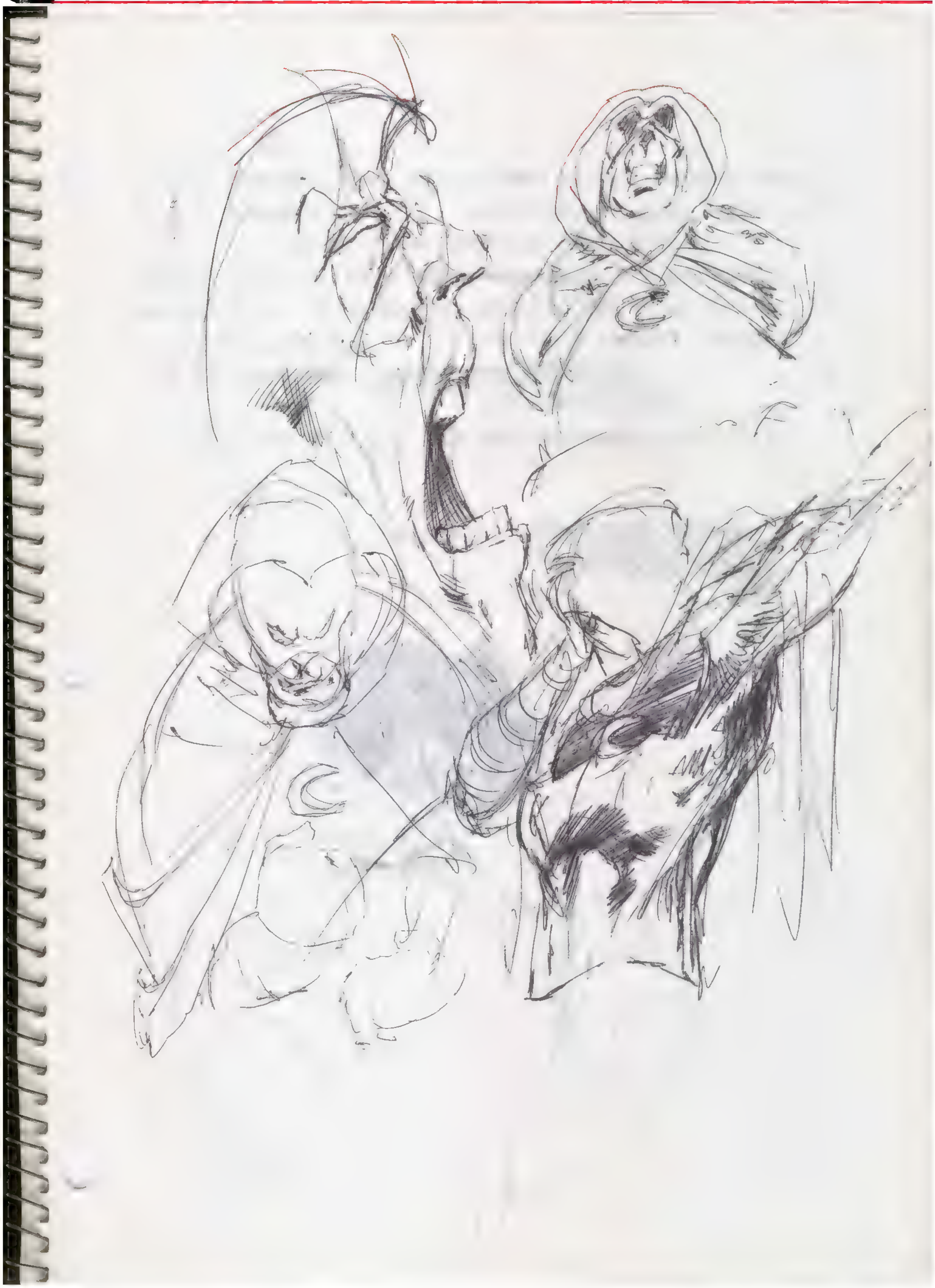
SUE CHANGES HIM INTO THE BUSINESS MAN PAGES 1-3

4 5 6
HEADS TO LOBBIE

7 8 GETS WORD FROM CHURCH
9 DECIDES TO TURN IN THE LOOTIE
10 GOODBYE AND CRUNK



HSANB 18/31 - Doodling the Moon Roach and Artemis Strong. Drawing him in Neal Adams' style – but exaggerating it – would be a good visual gag. And it wouldn't use up any extra pages. I had to draw him anyway.



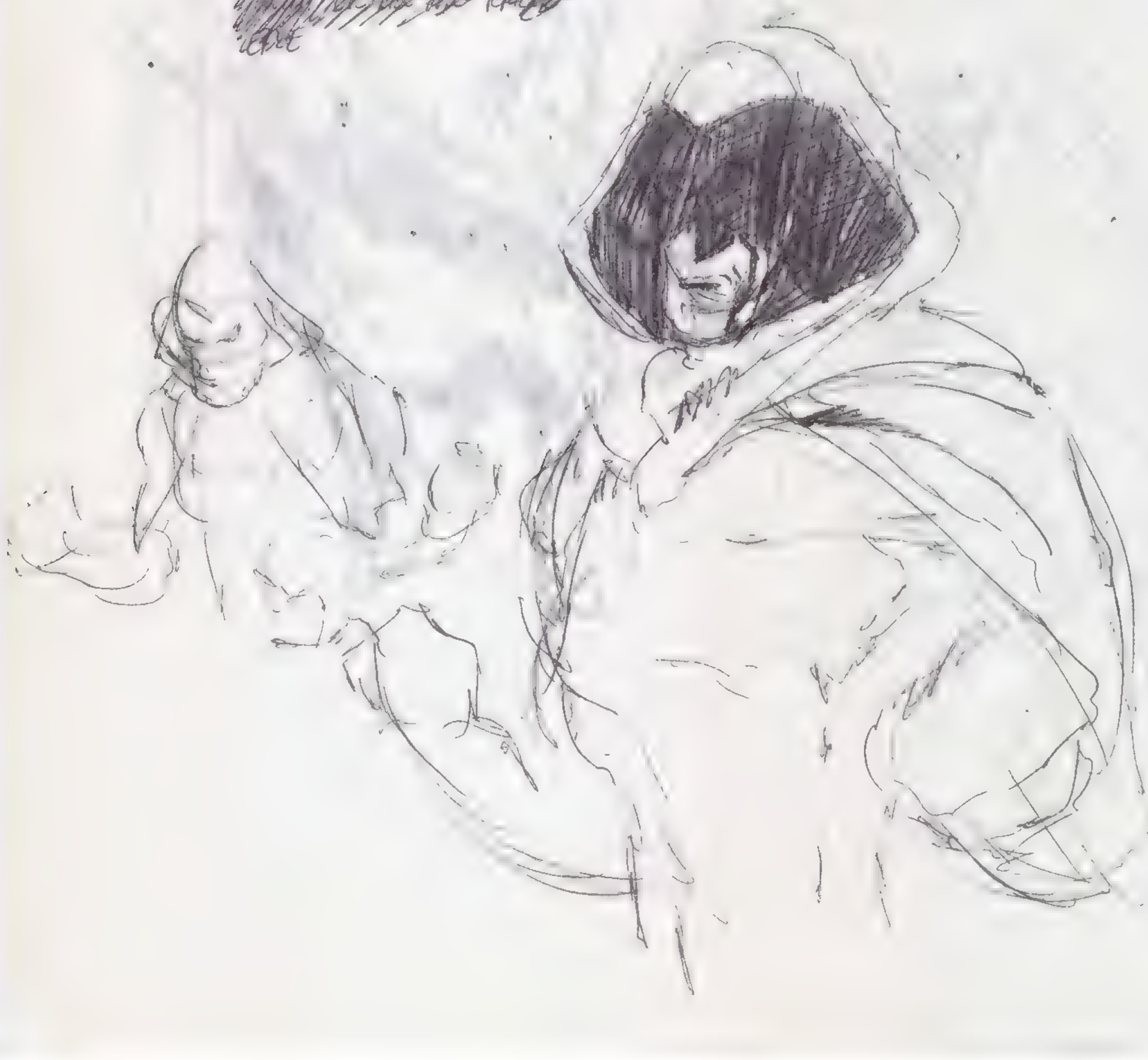
HSANB 19/31 - Another challenge. How do you EXAGGERATE a drawing style that's based on exaggeration?

① FOLLOW COCKROACH FILTHY MONEY-GOUGING SCUM SCUMMY MONEY
② IN THROUGH WINDOW WE'S BLOODING GRUBBING FILTH
I HAVE TO CLEANSE HIS CLOTHES WHILE WE'S STILL
③ CLEANING HIS CLOTHES. ~~WE BECOMES SEDATE~~ WHILE SUE TELLS CEREBUS
④ HOW WE SWEPT INTO WEK ROOM ONE NIGHT OUT OF A BLINDING RAINSTORM ROMANTIC ADAMS SUIT WE SAID WE WANT TO MAKE ANOTHER COSTUME

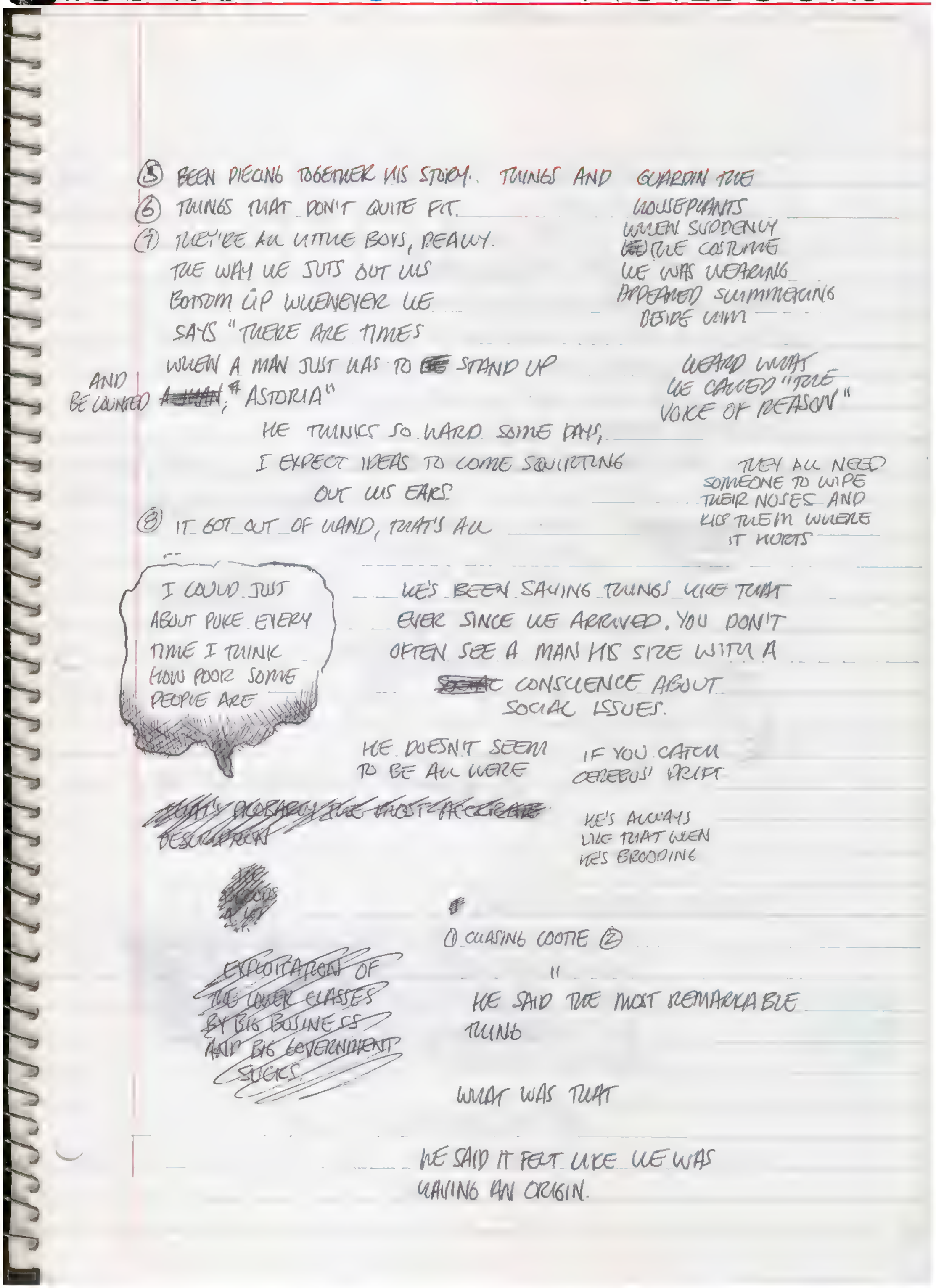
~~What I want to have we become.~~

SUE'S WRITTEN DOWN EVERYTHING WE'S SAID SINCE WE SCOOPED UP

~~AND BEGINS OF THE LOOSEN WE BEGIN TO BE~~ THERE ARE



HSANB 20/31 - Another attempt at short terse descriptions to try to get past "follow Cockroach" on page 1 and "in through window" on page 2.



HSANB 21/31 - Coming up with funny lines that I can string together into a story. "He thinks so hard some days, I expect ideas to come squirting out his ears."

① FOLLOWING COOTIE. CATCH HIM AND TURN HIM IN

② WHEN I THINK OF HOW...
BEEN SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT SINCE HE GOT HERE
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU FIND A MAN THAT ~~BIG~~ SIZE ~~[illegible]~~
~~THEE~~ TH, WITH A CONSCIENCE ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES

③ YOU KNOW HIM PRETTY GOOD, THEN?
I'VE LOVED HIM FOR EVERY ONE OF THE SEVENTEEN
DAYS SINCE HE SLIDE INTO MY LIFE AND STOLE
MY HEART FOREVER

OUT CLUTCHING QUAVERING HAND

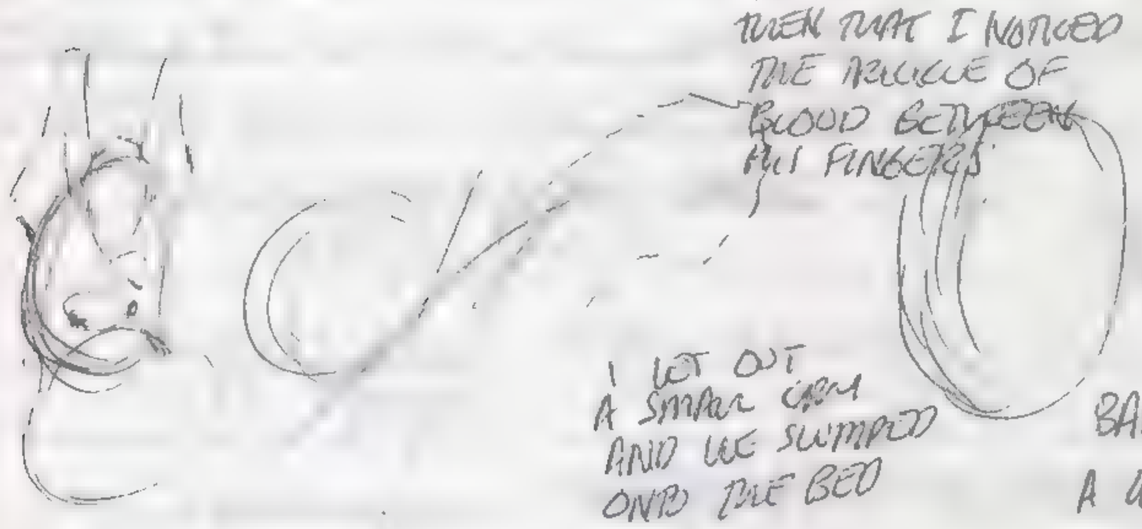
I THOUGHT I HEARD THE WINDOW OPEN. THERE HIM STANDING THERE, THE WIND BLOWING THE DRAPERIES AROUND HIM

~~[illegible]~~
~~DISTURB YOU~~
~~HEART~~

SORRY, TOOTS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MY GUT IS LEAKING ALL OVER YER CARPET.

~~SAID THAT TOUCH~~
LIKE ~~A BITCH~~

HE SAID. IT WAS THEN THAT I NOTICED THE TRICKLE OF BLOOD BETWEEN HIS FINGERS



I LET OUT A SHRILL CRY AND WE SLUMPED ONTO THE BED

BANDAGING HIM AND A COLD COMPRESS

④ PIECED TOGETHER HIS STORY

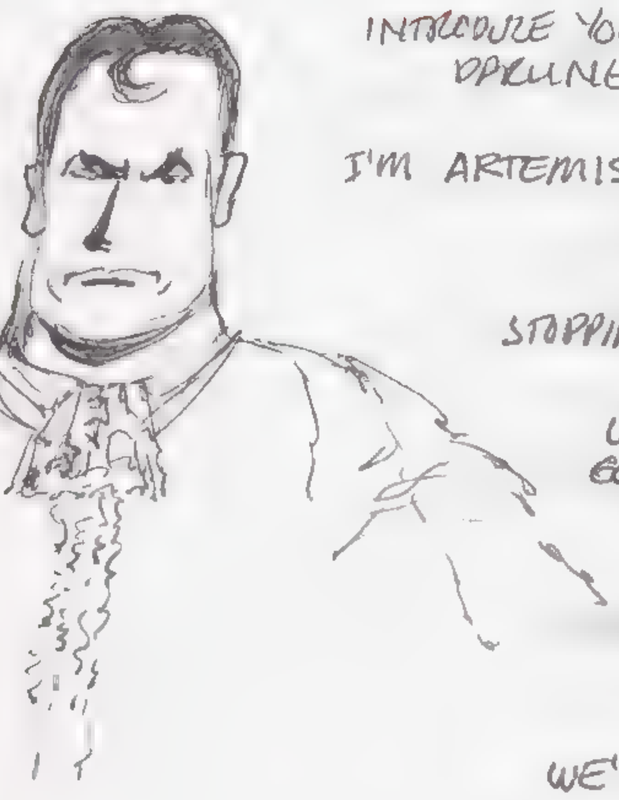
~~GUNSHOT WOUND? [illegible] LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN IN SOME~~
~~CAN HIS NECK. HE HAS A GUN WITH HIM~~
~~SOMEONE, HIS SIDE KICK HE~~
~~IN A EMERGENCY ROOM, POLICE~~
ECONOMIC INJUSTICES OF THE WORLD

WEISSKNAPT AND DESK CLERK AND

TAKE THE COSTUME WITH YOU AND WE WILL NEVER PUT THAT COSTUME ON AGAIN

HSANB 22/31 - Getting that quavery romantic Mary Astor voice responding to lines like "Sorry, toots, but it looks like my gut is leaking all over your carpet". The character can make romance out of ANYthing.

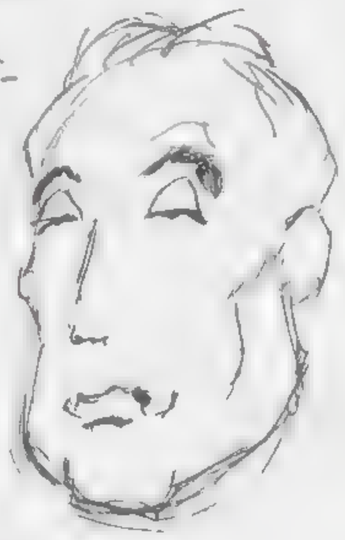
CHANGING MIM INTO HIS STREET CLOTHES
HE'S QUITE HARMLESS NOW



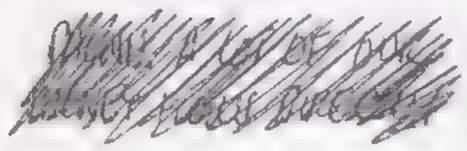
INTRODUCE YOURSELF, DARLING

I'M ARTEMIS STRONG

STOPPING ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION OF TEST THROUGH LOBBYING OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTATIVES TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO CASH FLOW, INSTALMENT-WISE



WE'RE UP AGAINST IT NOW. I'D SAY IF WE CAN FIND OUR STASIS POINT AND MAKE OUR ALLIES STASIS CONSCIOUS



ARTEMIS -- THIS IS LORD CEREBUS OF PALNU. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL HIM

WHY NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT. I THINK YOU'RE GETTING HOLLAND M. HADDEN TO CANCEL TEST'S DEBT TO MIM WAS ONE DAMN FINE PIECE OF WORK

DAMN. FINE

DAMN FINE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME SOME PEOPLE STARTING GIVING A DAMN

CEREBUS GETS TALKED INTO BELIEVING

CEREBUS GETS THE IDEA

I GIVE A DAMN.

HOLLAND M HADDEN GAVE A DAMN

③ COMING INTO HER ROOM
½ ④ HER TAKING CARE OF HIM
½ ④ ⑤ HOW HE CAME TO BE "HE SAID IT FELT LIKE HE WAS HAVING AN ORIGIN"

MAKE YOUR ARTEMIS A BETTER DARLING

⑥ ⑦ ⑧
CEREBUS TALKED INTO BELIEVING GOOSE IS HARMLESS AS ARTEMIS STRONG

HSANB 23/31 - Writing sample Artemis Strong dialogue but it just slowed the whole thing down. Cerebus is funny, Mary Astor is funny, the Roach is funny – Artemis Strong isn't funny.

(6) (7) (8) SKILL STRENGTH AND YET SO

...SO...

STUPID?

(4) DEVERCIOUS WANTS TO HELP LOWER FELDA.

CRUSH THE IESTAN STRANGLEHOLD

ON THE FELDAN ECONOMIES

"MOON ROACH" HE EMERGES BY NIGHT.

TO GRIND THE ECONOMIC OPPRESSORS

INTO A RED SMEAR ON THE

PAVEMENT

IT WAS THE PERSONACHM OF [redacted]

KEMPTON, MOON ROACH'S BIGGEST

FAN

HIS REFLEXES ARE WITHOUT

MENISCH : PEER. HE SWEEPS THROUGH

THE NIGHT, A SILVER AND JET

AVENGER OF ECONOMIC INJUSTICE

I LISTENED TO ALL THIS FOR SOME

TIME. I THINK KEMPTON IS THE SOURCE

OF ALL THE PROBLEMS... HE REINFORCES

THE MOON ROACH'S VIEW THAT WHAT

HE IS DOING IS GOOD

BUT A THIRD PERSONALITY EMERGED

IN THAT RECENT PERIOD... THE MORE

MODERATE ARTEMIS STRONG.

[redacted]

[redacted]

(9) (10) (11) YOUR PARENTS WERE ORPHANED WHEN

PROFIT HUNGRY IESTAN BUSINESSMEN

CUT THROUGH THEIR ECONOMIC

LIFELINE

WHEN YES PLEASE.

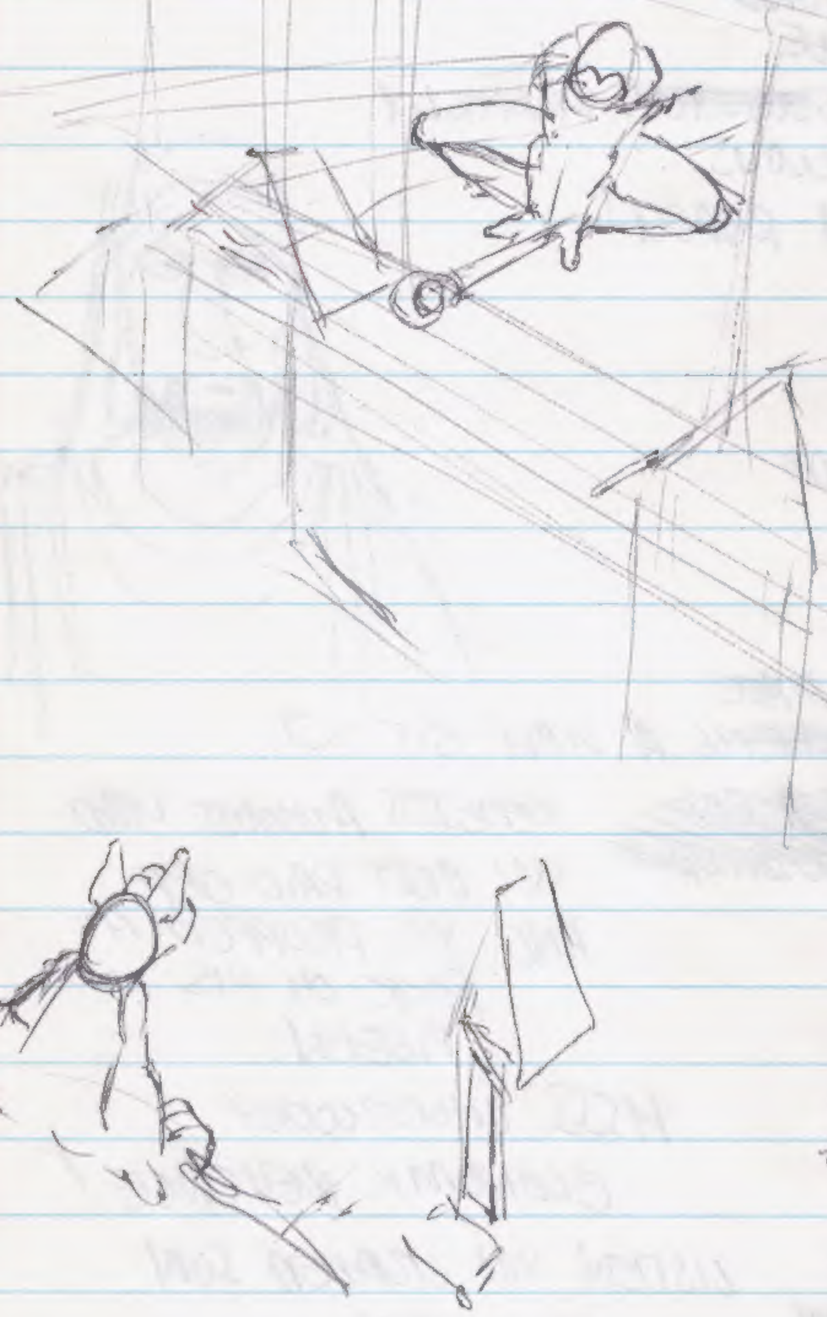
WELSHAMPT COMES UP

IN THE CONVERSATION.

HSANB 24/31 - "Moon Roach. He emerges by night to grind the economic oppressors into a red smear on the pavement." I should have used that one.

~~CEREBUS HAS BECOME [illegible] SINCE HE [illegible]~~

CURSES MOON COLOY



(9) (10) (11) CHURCH PERSUADES CEREBUS

~~PAGE~~ RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ESHNOSOPUR. IT ~~HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO~~ ~~[illegible]~~ I WAS CONTACTED A FEW MOMENTS AGO BY

ARRIVING BACK AT THE REGENCY, CEREBUS IS SURROUNDED BY MILITARY GUARDS AND GUIDED SWIFTLY THROUGH SEVERAL DOORWAYS

I HAVE VOLUNTEERED AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE OF ESHNOSOPUR TO PASS ALONG A REQUEST FROM HIS HOLINESS.

MR. HADDEN'S PENIS HAS BEEN SEPARATED A NUMBER OF NEUTRALITY UNITS BETWEEN PAUNO AND IEST SPECIES

IN A FEW MOMENTS, TWO ASSISTANTS TO THE PONTIFF WILL ENTER THIS ROOM ~~AND ASK YOU TO SIGN A PIECE OF PAPER STATING THAT YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HOLAND MR. HADDEN~~ SET

AT THAT TIME YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO ANSWER EITHER "YES OR NO" AND THEIR QUESTION IS THIS; "ARE YOU IN POSSESSION OF ANY DOCUMENTS SIGNED BY HOLAND M. HADDEN AND DATED TODAY"

WHAT IF CEREBUS ANSWERS "NO"?

WHAT IF CEREBUS ANSWERS "YES"

YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE THE DOCUMENT # AND WILL IMMEDIATELY ~~BE EXPECTED~~ BE ARRESTED, DRAWN AND QUARTERED AND YOUR REMAINS DRAGGED THROUGH THE STREETS

THOSE TWO GENTLEMEN OVER THERE.

HSANB 25/31 - The "Church figure" walk-on originally took place inside the Regency. I moved it outside in the rain so I didn't need a transition from the "Roach lair" to outside to inside the Regency. Anytime I could compress three scenes into one, I did it.

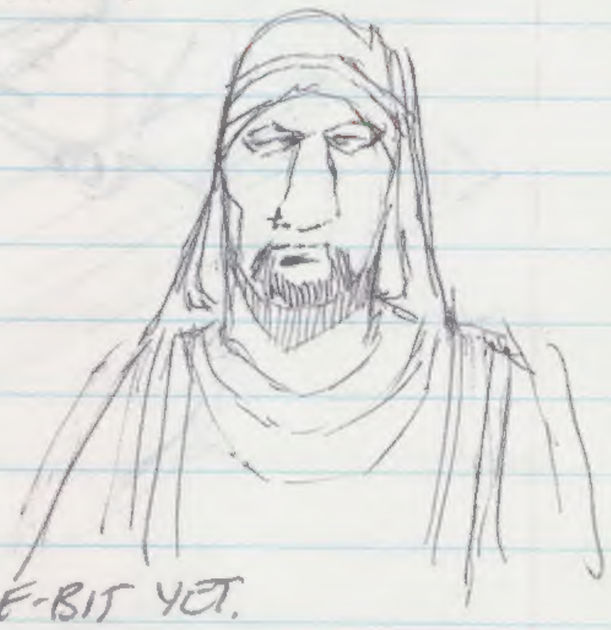
(12) LEAVING AND CRUNK.
UNORTHODOX
ECONOMIC
REVENGE

WHAT IF ANY OF THEM WERE ~~AN~~ BEDUIN... WHAT FROM
WERE THE ODDS? THAT ONE OF THEM HAD BEEN WITH CAPTAIN COCKROACH? NOT VERY GOOD - BUT COULD WE BET HIS LIFE ON IT?
— HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT
— INCREDIBLY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS

TRUMPETS
THE LUNGS
OF THE
~~MOST~~ SUBSECTLY FRANKLY
FABULOUS
MOON ROACH!

THIS MAY
COMPLICATE
MATTERS
M'LORD

YOU KNOW
CEREBUS
WOULDN'T
BE SURPRISED?
A BIT



(13) COOTIE
(14) LOOK CEREBUS ~~HAVE~~ WASN'T MADE ~~MAKING~~ A HALF-BIT YET.
(15) ~~WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A BAD SUGGESTION?~~
(16) CEREBUS ALMOST HAD HIS DEBT PAID OFF AND YOU DROPPED A ROCK ON HIS PIGEON.

(17) WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN
HSSS. UNORTHODOX ECONOMIC REVENGE!

WHAT ARE YOU PICKING ON CEREBUS FOR?
LISTEN YOU CRAVEN SON OF A BUG
TURNOWS STONE BUG CATCHES IT.
CEREBUS IS BROKE!
GO SOMEWHERE ELSE

(18) CEREBUS: I THINK THE PRIME MINISTER AND WADDEN AND DIPP MIGHT WANT TO HAVE A CHAT.
(18) CEREBUS ~~WHERE DO~~
(16) CEREBUS IN WINDOW OF HIS ROOM ELF WAITING FOR HIM INTO PANELS AND OUT OF THEM ENTHUSIASTIC SHE WANTS HIM TO WATCH HER

(19) LOOK TAKE OFF, ELF CEREBUS IS GOING TO BE BUSY.
(17) ALL THE STUFF CEREBUS IS
(18) GOING TO NEED
(19)

HSANB 26/31 - Likewise with a smooth one-panel transition:
"This may complicate matters, m'lord."
"You know, Cerebus wouldn't be a bit surprised?"

① CHASING COOTIE ② IN THE WINDOW. HE'S BEEN SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT SINCE I MET HIM ③ SWEPT IN WERE ONE NIGHT ④ PERSONALITIES ⑤ BEQUIN... FELT LIKE HE WAS HAVING AN ORIGIN. ⑥ TAKE THE COSTUME I SUGGEST WE'VE BURIED IT WON'T CAUSE YOU ANY MORE PROBLEMS.

⑦ WALKING ACROSS PLAZA. TO ENTRANCE NEAREST MS ROOM RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE. OF ESKIMOSOPOR

⑧ FINITE EXPLANATIONS AND LONG WALK ~~BACK~~ TO PONTIFF'S SPECIAL ENVOY. YOU DON'T HAVE SUCH A DOCUMENT = "NO" WITH HARM A PARTING WORD THE ENVOY WALKS PHYSICALLY

⑨ AND IS PROMPTLY CRUSHED BY. AWS AND ONE HALF TONS OF CRESCENT-CARVED STONE

UNORTHODOX ECONOMIC REVENGE.

COMPLICATE MATTERS, M'LORD CEREBUS WOULDN'T BE A BIT SURPRISED

⑩ NEAL ADAMS STYLE CLOSE. SEQUENCE.

⑪

⑫ ROUNDS CORNER TRAPPED NOW.

⑬ CEREBUS FEELS THE EXTRA WEIGHT.

SOME.... HIDEOUS... ECONOMIC

DISEASE IS AFFECTING US ALL

⑭ ARGUING. THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANYWHERE.

THE GIRL. IT WASN'T EXACTLY SPORTING, BUT IF CEREBUS COULD TURN HER OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES, ~~AND I WOULD BE~~ THE MOON ROACH WOULD LOSE HIS SANCTUARY. LEAVING.

⑮ ~~SHIP GATE IS NO DOOR REASON~~ EMPTY. CEREBUS WAS SUCKERED

⑯ SWARMING OVER STREETS. ~~NO PROOF OF THAT THEM~~

⑰ ELF WANTS TO SHOW CEREBUS HER NEW TRICK

⑱ GUY FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.. BURN PAPER OR HIDE IT? ~~A BRIEF~~ SOAKS IT WITH KEROSENE KEEP MATCHES NEXT TO HIM

⑲

⑳ NEXT CEREBUS VS. CHURCH AND STATE

HSANB 27/31 - Some issues it was like pulling teeth, but when I could get to the point where I could map the issue through until page 14 in terse single phrases, it was all worthwhile.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY